Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Authorities Deny Reports of Unofficial Executions

PA0302025393 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The Cuban Prosecutor General's Office denied on 2 February U.S. State Department reports about unofficial executions on the island. Jorge Bodes Torres, chief of the Criminal Processes Division at the Cuban Attorney General's Office, was consulted by the media and said the accusations are not true.

Bodes said the plan is to depict as executions the deaths of two persons, caused by a private guard and a railroad company guard, who were punished for their actions. He added that security agents did not participate in these deaths.

The cases mentioned by the U.S. State Department include the death of Miguel Arocha. He was shot by Mario Silva Hernandez, who was guarding his family's land. Silva was sentenced to 15 years in prison for murder and illegal weapons possession.

Bodes reported another misconstrued case is that of Orelvis Martinez Limonta, who was ordered to leave a railroad warehouse where he was hiding. Martinez ignored the order, given by Oswaldo Osenis Beiria, the guard who fired two shots and killed Martinez. Osenis Beiria was sentenced to 18 years in prison. He has appealed the sentence.

Fidel Castro Presides at Education 93 Conference

FL0202161493 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, is attending the official opening of the Education 93 international conference at the Karl Marx Theater in Havana. At the meeting for the unity of Latin American teachers, Education Minister Luis Ignacio Gomez Gutierrez will hold a special seminar called "Current Trends in the Development of Cuban Education Policy." The forum, which has as one of its main goals to develop a type of education that is appropriate for Latin America, will be held with 19 working commissions. Approximately 600 papers by foreign teachers and more than 300 papers by Cuban teachers will be presented. The commissions will meet from 1500 to 1700 at the Convention Center, and the first assembly will be held on 4 February.

Castro Meets With Pastors for Peace Delegation

FL0202185293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has met with the Pastors for Peace delegation, which is headed by The Reverend Lucius Walker and is again visiting our country. The members of the delegation explained to Fidel the work of solidarity with Cuba that they are increasingly promoting in the United States.

Mexican University Signs Cooperation Accord

FL0302023793 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The Cuban General Attorney Office and the Judicial Research Institute of the Autonomous University of Mexico signed a cooperation accord on 2 February in Havana. The document was signed by Dr. Jose Luis Soberanes, the director of the Mexican institute, and Dr. Ramon de la Cruz, the attorney general of Cuba. Mexican Ambassador Mario Moya and Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada signed the document as honorary witnesses.

Haiti

UN/OAS Envoy Caputo Arrival Reported

FL0202170793 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The UN and OAS mediator in the Haitian crisis, Dante Caputo, arrived by private plane at the Port-au-Prince Mais Gate International Airport on the afternoon of 1 February at approximately 1550. Upon his arrival, Caputo was confronted by a group of over 300 demonstrators, who came to protest the fact that the United Nations and the OAS have decided to send civilian observers to Haiti within the next few days. The demonstrators were shouting: "Down with Caputo!" They wore T-shirts saying: No to Occupation. Yesterday, 1 February, was the second day this group of people protested in front of the airport in a carnival-like atmosphere. [passage omitted]

The UN and OAS representative in the Haitian crisis actually returned to Port-au-Prince on 1 February. A considerable military force accompanied Mr. Caputo to the hotel where he planned to stay. Dante Caputo will hold another series of talks with the Marc Bazin government. A UN spokesman stated that Mr. Caputo would not stay long in Port-au-Prince and that the work he will have to perform here is to convince the Port-au-Prince authorities to accept the presence of a UN and OAS mission which will favor a negotiated solution to the Haitian crisis.

According to what was said, Dante Caputo, whose length of stay in Haiti has not been specified, arrived in the capital yesterday afternoon aboard a private plane and went to the hotel by way of a secondary road (?relatively far from) where a demonstration was taking place. Many slogans were against him and former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The demonstrators were chanting: "No to Aristide; Yes to Democracy." They also said they do not want Caputo whom they classed as someone [who is preparing] the occupation of Haiti by foreigners. One

of the demonstrators hurled various threats, even death threats against an AFP correspondent who was present at the demonstration. He made these same and other threats to other journalists who were present. The demonstrators insulted the journalists by saying: "Down with France." They insulted many journalists who were present as well as the French Government. [passage omitted]

According to the news we heard in the capital, Mr. Caputo should meet with Prime Minister Marc Bazin, who rejected—on 27 January on behalf the national sovereignty—the conditions which Mr. Caputo had outlined in a document sent to him. Bazin made these statements in the name of his respect for the country's sovereignty. In the same speech, Bazin pointed out that the Haitian Army, the parliament, as well as the government are ready to accept a negotiated solution to the country's crisis.

MDN Supports Demonstration Against Envoy

FL0202182493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Hubert de Ronceray's party, Mobilization For National Development [MDN], has received with legitimate satisfaction the numerous displays of indignation and anger that erupted in front of the international airport in Port-au-Prince on 31 January. During those demonstrations, Haitians said no to Dante Caputo's mission and no to occupation of the national territory as Jean-Bertrand Aristide asked.

The MDN is delighted about this revival of Haitian national feeling, which lavalas fascism and the Bazinian [derived from Bazin] hypocrisy condemned to death. The note continues by saying: the healthy reserves of the country relayed the Haitian delegation's protestations in Washington and forced Mr. Bazin to deny his 17 January letter to Dante Caputo; a letter in which he had given his approval for the deployment of occupational forces throughout the entire country.

The MDN continues by congratulating all social sectors in the country and reminded, once again, the international community of the specific lesson of the Haitian culture, eternal victim of racism and all forces of economic aggression. Finally, the MDN states that history will remember that despite their meanness, hatred, and cynicism, the traitors of national sovereignty did not succeed—at the end of the twentieth century—in their dream of wiping out the Haitian nation.

Parties Warn of Mission's Threat to Sovereignty

FL0202221493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Leaders of nine political parties—the Mobilization for National Development [MDN], the National Cooperative Action Movement [MKN], the Movement for the Organization of the Country [MOP], the Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti [MODEL/PRDH], the National Agricultural and Industrial Party [PAIN], the Haitian Party of God [PARADI], the Democratic Movement of Haitian Youth [MODEJHA], the Social Christian People's Party of Haiti [PPSCH], and the Union of Democratic Patriots [UPD]—share the people's indignation over the threat the so-called UN/OAS civilian mission poses to the nation's sovereignty. These parties have noted, quote:

First, that the prime minister of the current unconstitutional government in his 27 January address presented objections to the modes of execution of the mission without opposing its principles or objectives;

Second, that this mission, which was requested by former President Aristide himself—I am still quoting-...[pauses] And that Prime Minister Marc Bazin and Foreign Minister Francois Benoit have welcomed since the first days of the government while advocating the Washington agreement was previously solemnly rejected by the Court of Cassation. This mission implies violation of the Haitian Constitution by assigning to foreigners that reserved only for nationals, as provided for in this Constitution.

The third point noted by those political parties is that, contrary to Dante Caputo's assertions, the mission, even if it has benefitted from Marc Bazin's supportive 27 January letter, has not received the Haitian Armed Forces' approval. As far as his letter to Caputo is concerned, the commander in chief, even though he does not have the constitutional power to commit the country, has offered his support to the initiative, provided the constitution and the nation's sovereignty are respected.

Caputo's untimely statements, his rude attitude toward Haitian authorities, as well as the terms of reference that he has made known clearly indicate that he does not intend to fulfill his role as mediator but rather as a governor, imposing himself on the institutions in charge of the country, especially on the Haitian justice system.

Consequently, these parties say they are categorically opposed to any steps by the international community under the facade of this so-called mission, implying violation of the Haitian Constitution and contempt for national sovereignty. These parties, recalling the terrible lessons of history, are also calling on all Haitians whose patriotism has not died to stand united to block the road to execution of an irreverent mission by the foreigner, to betray our ideals of a free and independent nation, unfortunately accepted under some timid formal reserve by Marc Bazin's government. These parties are asking for the immediate resignation of this inept, shame-drenched government and for a return to constitutional legality while awaiting the reorganization of our internal institutions for legal purposes.

Dr. Louis Antoine Auguste signed as coordinator general for those nine political parties.

Bonaire Reports UN Envoy Receives Counterproposal

FL0302121093 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Excerpt] UN envoy to Haiti, Dante Caputo, has received a counterproposal from Haitian leaders. In a meeting with acting Prime Minister Marc Bazin and military General Raoul Cedras, Mr. Caputo was handed a document reportedly modifying the plans to restore democracy. Earlier meetings had convinced Mr. Caputo that the Haitian leaders were ready to work toward a restoration to power of Jean-Bertrand Aristide. [passage omitted]

President Opens Latin American Parliament Talks

PA3101211/93 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Report by Gabriela Resendes]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has opened the meetings of the Board of Directors and the Political and Lega. Affairs Commission of the Latin American Parliament at Los Pinos Presidential Residence.

The president said that during these times when competition for markets in Latin America is increasing, we must strengthen mechanisms for economic cooperation.

[Begin Salinas recording] We must include a wide range of products in our trade agreements. We must promote a gradual reopening of our markets by eliminating tariff and nontariff barriers. To take advantage of our many comparative advantages, we must implement mechanisms of economic cooperation. We also need to agree on clear rules. [end recording]

The president also talked about the need to achieve a consensus in principles such as self-determination, national sovereignty, democracy, and social justice as the best guarantees for the internal stability of countries.

Mr. Humberto Celli, president of the Latin American Parliament, discussed what he considers the weak points of the region.

[Begin Celli recording] Haiti's military government, the Venezuelan Government instability, the dictatorial Peruvian Government, the Brazilian president's trial, the Cuban situation, and Central America's ups and downs are all signs that indicate uneasiness, anxiety, and a weakening. [end recording]

As for the reasons, he said:

[Begin Celli recording] The reasons for this situation have been the policies of economic adjustment, which drastically hurt the quality of life of the majority of people on the continent. [end recording]

He added that the reduction in foreign debt has led to an increase in social debt.

Those present at the ceremony at the Manuel Avila Camacho Room were Government Secretary Patrocinio Gonzalez; Attorney General Jorge Carpizo; Senate President Emilio M. Gonzalez; Fernando Ortiz Arana, president of the Permanent Commission of the Mexican Congress; as well as Humberto Lugo Gil and Ricardo Lugo Rodriguez, presidents of the Political and Legal Affairs Commissions of the Latin American Parliament, respectively, among other legislators.

Ecology Groups Urge Wealthy Nations To Pay Damages

PA0302042893 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Representatives of ecology parties from Europe, Africa, and the American continent, who concluded a meeting in Mexico City on 1 February, agreed that rich countries must pay for the ecological damage they have caused to poor countries. This should be done through a reduction of Third World foreign debt.

At a news conference, representatives of the green parties stressed that this procedure will help governments assign larger budgets to repair ecological damage.

Mexican Ecologist Party leader Jorge Gonzalez Torres explained:

[Begin Gonzalez Torres recording] There is a large ecological debt to the so-called Third World countries, including Mexico and the nations of Latin America, Asia, and Africa. This debt exists and its size must be determined and compensated through the large foreign debts our countries contracted in their efforts to develop. [end recording]

Members of the green parties noted that governments and large enterprises are responsible for the world's ecological deterioration. They added that these governments and enterprises have caused the destruction of 15 million trees per day and the death of living species.

The representatives from Mexico, the United States, and Canada spoke about the North American Free Trade Agreement. They agreed that a parallel ecological agreement must be negotiated to protect the environment and the population of the three countries.

Concamin President on Steel Industry, U.S. Taxes

PA0302124393 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Jesus Ceballos, president of the Confederation of Industrial Associations [Concamin], said on 2 February that approximately one-half of the nation's steel industry will be paralyzed by U.S. taxes. Ceballos said the Mexican steel industry will receive $100 million less in revenues within three months given the U.S. decision to declare up to 79 percent in taxes on Mexican steel imports.

The Concamin president said the measure, which he called protectionist, will paralyze more than 40 percent of the Mexican steel industry. He added that a prompt solution must be found to the steel problem or workers will be dismissed. Ceballos said: The Mexican steel industry will be irreversibly damaged if the U.S. protectionist policy against Mexican steel continues.

[Begin Ceballos recording] This is a unilateral measure that is obviously detrimental for our industry. That is why we have contacted the trade secretariat to report the

problem. We recently discussed the issue with Assistant Commerce Secretary [Pedro] Noyola. Commerce Secretary [Jaime] Serra is here now and we have also asked him about this. He said we will meet in two or three days to analyze the problem and see what measures can be taken. [end recording]

Ceballos said Mexican industrialists hope this type of unilateral action will be eliminated when the North American Free Trade Agreement is enforced. He added that such problems should be solved through the chapter on the settlement of disputes.

* Democratic Transition Requirements Examined

92CA0055A Mexico City EL FINANCIERO ('Zona Abierta' Supplement) in Spanish 4 Dec 92 pp I, II, 12

[Luis Javier Garrido commentary: "A Transition Reached Through Agreement?"]

[Text] What are the chances that Mexico will attain a democratic system under a "transition pact"? There has been a lot of talk, but not much reflection on the issue.

The democratic transition scenario that is usually considered the most viable is that of a transition reached through agreement (or that of "accords" reached by the de facto powers of a country and the political leaders of the democratic opposition), and this has been the case in Mexico since the fraud of 1988. Both the National Action Party (PAN) and the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) have made a futile effort to reach a transition accord with the Salinas government.

In the brief history of transitions in the second half of the 20th century, this route has been regarded as the classic one for changing from an authoritarian regime to a democratic one, not only because of its peaceful nature, which reveals the political maturity both of those who have exercised power illegitimately and of those struggling for a democratic society, but also because it allows us to distinguish rather clearly the different phases of the transition. That is why the Mexican political opposition has given priority to this method, although it has had no success in the last four years. Therefore, this option must be called into question.

A transition reached through agreement, judging by the outcome of the fruitless Mexican experience (1988-92), is merely the product of the political will of several protagonists, even if this political will is the key factor in attaining such a transition. It requires a whole series of elements, some of them extremely complex, and putting them together can make possible the democratization of the mechanisms for decisionmaking in a country, as occurred in Spain (1976-80) and Poland (1989-92).

1. The principle that a transition accord will not achieve its objectives if it is not prepared, discussed, and accepted by *valid* interlocutors, that is to say, people who are sufficiently representative, such as the president of the republic in Mexico, is of vital importance, particularly in cases such as the Mexican "system." This seemingly fundamental premise is not really so fundamental when it comes to an authoritarian "system" as peculiar as our own, in which the party of the state, which clearly symbolizes the *ancien regime*, has never enjoyed true autonomy and is subordinate "institutionally" to whoever is currently president of the republic (and therefore it has no "bargaining power"). When the press says that "the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) negotiated," regardless of who the actual interlocutors were in the opposition, it is obvious that the person who really agreed to the negotiation was the "supreme leader" of the PRI, the only " valid interlocutor."

2. In Mexico, therefore, there would be no reason for the democratic transition accord to be negotiated with the PRI, which, as in other cases, in this very delicate situation is not a "valid" interlocutor." The president of the PRI's National Executive Committee (CEN), for example, not only is not at all representative of the social organizations encompassed by the PRI corporate structure, but does not even have power within the government. Therefore, the democratic opposition groups, in the present context, must discuss the transition, obviously, with the " supreme leader" of the party of the state, the current president of the republic. He, in turn, by virtue of his "unwritten" powers, would have to pledge to place the corporate forces of the state at the service of the agreed-upon transition accord, in particular the trade union organizations, which are symbolically the PRI's strength and the mainstay of the president's power.

The transition in which the president of the republic is the interlocutor of the opposition forces (and in Mexico's case this is the way it has to be) is based, of course, on the assumption that the person in that office has full powers, including those that have been called " metaconstitutional powers" in the Mexican system. These powers are derived from the fact that he is the leader of the party. This has resulted in the concern expressed by some opposition leaders and members of civic organizations regarding the present deterioration of the "system," and the succession of mutual complaints lodged by Carlos Salinas de Gortari and the PRI bureaucracy. A president who has no real influence in his party will not be able to reach an agreement on a transition, and the path of negotiation will become much more difficult.

3. Along these lines, the transition agreement therefore presupposes the government's recognition (albeit not explicit) that the prevailing system is not democratic and that it is necessary to carry out a transition to democracy to guarantee the higher interests of society. In Mexico's case, PRI officials in the government have always insisted that we live in a "perfectible democracy." They have never admitted that the PRI is a party of the state and that electoral fraud is an official operation. It is difficult to imagine that, even if they did enter into a transition agreement, they would explicitly recognize the essential characteristics of the "system." In official rhetoric, their position on this matter has changed only in

degree. During the Lopez Portillo and De la Madrid eras, they insisted that Mexico was a "democracy"; then, after the debacle of 1988 and the amendment of electoral legislation at the behest of the Salinas administration, they made veiled suggestions that the transition to democracy had already occurred and that we were living in a "perfectible" or "imperfect" democracy, a notion that was supported and disseminated by the intellectuals of the "system."

The debacle that the problem of state elections represented for the regime has, nevertheless, led to a toning down of official rhetoric. Although government leaders do not appear to have much ammunition with which to refute the accusations that are systematically lodged against the PRI, they do not appear very anxious to refute them. At the same time, in the upper echelons of the PRI hierarchy there is already talk of "the transition," and all indications are that the evidence is overwhelming the once-arrogant government bureaucracy. But of course this acknowledgement is not enough, as we need the political resolve to make the transition to democracy, and so far the government has shown no such resolve. It continues to accept the political cost involved in maintaining the antidemocratic "system."

4. The transition will not be viable, of course, if there is no political and social opposition in motion to fight for the democratic transition and make the government knuckle under, forcing it to engage in dialogue and reach an agreement for change. The opposition, unlike the government, faces the imperative of imposing itself as a " valid interlocutor" on the transition process.

On the other side of the table, that is, in the democratic opposition, only the leaders of the representative organizations that have led the struggles for democracy can serve as valid interlocutors. In the case of Mexico, in the last four years these have been the two main opposition parties, the PAN and the PRD. In the classic scenario, the transition takes place when the opposition bloc exerts pressure on the government to the point of forcing it to "negotiate the transition." But in Mexico, there is not one opposition, but several, and there are two major democratic political parties, the PAN and the PRD. That has been one of the biggest obstacles to achieving a change in the system. The PAN leadership, since the emergence of the National Democratic Front (FDN), the fraud of 1988, and the poll results relegating it to the rank of the "third-largest political organization" in the country, has managed to establish closer ties with the Salinists. They have begun to play a more active role, thus ruling out the possibility of a joint action with the new center-left political organization, the PRD. The PAN tried to be the key player in a supposed transition, which its leaders assumed would turn out the way party ideologues imagined, but it did not: It was not strong enough for that, and to make matters worse, the government managed to co-opt some of its leaders and attenuate the Panists' democratic zeal.

5. Wresting a transition pact from the government in an authoritarian regime presupposes, of course, that the leadership of the opposition parties is not only intelligent, but also capable of putting the national interest above party interests. The scenario of a transition reached through agreement appears to be one of the most difficult ones in Mexico for two reasons, reasons attributable to the opposition itself. The first is that the two principal independent party forces, the PAN and the PRD, have adopted very different strategies for dealing with the problem. The PAN gives priority to the notion of "gradual" legal reforms which has led it to make myriad concessions to the "system," while the PRD insists on an accord for a democratic transition. To make such an accord possible, it must not only coordinate efforts beforehand, but it must also carry out a very cohesive political action. The second reason why this agreement will be difficult is a consequence of the first reason: There is not enough of a social mobilization to force the government to negotiate with the opposition groups, and that is undoubtedly a sine qua non.

6. A democratic transition pact must be based on the convergence of the opposition groups and the government around "an agreement on basic principles," and that entails a very firm unity of action by the democratic forces in order to propel the country toward a democratic system. This has not happened in Mexico in the 1988-92 period. The PAN and the PRD have acted independently, which has enabled the Salinas government to manipulate the situation more easily and close its ears to demands for change. A brief summary of events demonstrates this phenomenon.

The two initiatives presented to the government by National Action during these years resulted in different outcomes, but neither was resolved with a transition accord. The "National Commitment to Legitimacy and Democracy" (16 November 1988) led to a rapprochement between the PAN national leadership, headed by Luis H. Alvarez, and Salinas and his government; it also led to the official amendment of the Constitution with regard to political-electoral matters in 1989, but no "transition" pact was involved. The (alleged) "letter of intent" between Los Pinos and the PAN was not, of course, an agreement for the democratization of the regime. No final version was drafted and it was never signed. The majority of the PAN delegation later voted for the PRI-sponsored Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures (Cofipe) and other legal amendments on a variety of subjects, but even with the new legislation, the 1991 elections were just as fraudulent as the previous ones, and even the PAN had to denounce them. The "Convocation for a National Consensus for Democracy," launched by the PAN National Executive Committee (CEN) shortly after the brutal fraud of the federal legislative elections (17 October 1991), met with no public response, just silence on the part of the Salinas government. The government was more interested in spreading the idea that the PAN's local victories were due to negotiations with it than in promoting a democratic opening.

The PRD's initiatives did not get very far, either. The Salinas administration did not respond to Cuauhtemoc Cardenas' proposal to undertake a dialogue with the government (5 December 1988) or his suggestion that an agenda be drawn up for the transition (28 November 1989). Similarly, it ignored the PRD's call for a "National Accord for Democracy" (6 July 1990), the "Villahermosa Proposal" made by Manuel Lopez Obrador (9 March 1991), and the various demands made by the PRD's National Executive Committee (CEN) throughout 1992: from the celebration of the El Salvador Peace Accords (16 January 1992) to the fraudulent gubernatorial elections in Michoacan and the dialogue that a PRD delegation led by Senator Porfirio Munoz Ledo held with Interior Minister Fernando Gutierrez Barrios in late October of this year.

The initiatives of the PAN and the PRD had one limitation, that is they were not finalized proposals. They were exhortations to the government at very specific political-electoral moments to engage in dialogue on the country's political problem, establish an agenda for change, resolve post-electoral conflicts, or accept, in the best of cases, the need to democratize the mechanisms for choosing government leaders, but they did not involve clear enough proposals or precise enough deadlines to dismantle the apparatus of the party of the state.

7. The transition agreement should be, naturally, a clear proposal from the opposition to the government—and not vice-versa—to achieve another type of political system, and in this regard, the Mexican opposition has not undertaken or completed a serious effort. The fact that the most important of the PAN and PRD initiatives to negotiate jointly with the federal government to bring about a transition to democracy failed due to a breach of trust is an indication of the difficulties that exist. Despite the underlying disagreements that are apparent between the two parties' national leaders, in late 1991 and early 1992, a task force led by Luis H. Alvarez (PAN) and Cuauhtemoc Cardenas (PRD) met for the purpose of putting together a proposal for the blue-and-white leadership to present to the government. But when the text was leaked to EXCELSIOR in early March 1992, presumably by one of the PAN negotiators in order to derail the project, the initiative broke down.

8. The transition, however, is more complex than many realize. A democratic transition pact in a regime like Mexico's, which has consolidated such a complex and sophisticated power structure ("the system"), obviously cannot be limited to political-electoral agreements, as has been attempted thus far; it must form a basis for dismantling the apparatus of the party of the state, and it must make possible another form of exercising public power. The opposition forces have given priority in recent years to proposals for electoral reform, but it is undeniable that to achieve democracy in our country, there is a need above all to eliminate those institutions that are peculiar to a regime run by the party of the state. Until now, these institutions have been the underpinnings of the philosophy of power in Mexico. The transition pact would also involve, therefore, not only the strictly political aspect (that is, dismantling the PRI as an official organization, the parastate political entities, and the vertical trade unions), but also the democratization of information: the regulation of the right to information, put off for the last two presidential terms, in order to prevent the press from continuing to manipulate public opinion.

The transition to democracy in Mexico, nevertheless, would above all entail a series of constitutional and legal reforms with a view to eliminating the accumulated deviations that set the stage historically for the Mexican "system" of the 20th century, and this would necessarily involve changes in the political institutions. After nearly seven decades under a "system" of a party of the state, we know that in order to prevent the excessive concentration of power in the hands of a single individual and the centralism that has had such disastrous consequences for Mexico, it will be necessary to seek a new balance and control of the organs of public power. Democratizing the country, therefore, would entail a series of constitutional and legal reforms that (a) would guarantee the political rights of citizens and (b) would limit the overwhelming power of the federal executive branch, lay the groundwork for an autonomous judiciary, guarantee the balance of power in the government, promote a strict oversight of government officials' management of public resources, and, finally, establish mechanisms for the citizenry to control their government officials: a far-reaching institutional reform so that Mexico can live under the rule of law.

9. The democratic transition clearly requires the political will to achieve it, on the part of those in power, as well as those who aspire to democratize power, but in addition to an agreement "on the fundamentals," it needs something very simple: different political behavior. This might be the greatest challenge to that sector of the governing entity that realizes how urgent it is that Mexico devise another way of exercising public power, but it would also, of course, be a challenge to the democratic opposition. Written pacts are not enough if there is no will to enforce them or to assume historic responsibility. This must be understood in particular by those in the PRI who have subsisted on a policy of simulation. The rhetoric on the transition makes no sense: what is needed is action.

10. The paradox of transitions reached through agreement is, in the final analysis, that they come about because the leadership has negotiated accords; we must not forget that such agreements are not possible without the mobilization of society. The transition to democracy, no matter what route it follows, requires social mobilization. If the government, pressured by opposition groups, is to negotiate with them regarding the transition to a democratic system, it is necessary, obviously, for that political will to be propelled and strengthened by social forces. At least that has been the lesson learned in other parts of the world.

The transition to democracy is, therefore, not just an affair of state; it is most assuredly a challenge for society.

El Salvador

Cristiani on Death of Salvadorans in Mexico, FMLN

PA0302010693 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Report by Jose Seneca]

[Text] The death of four Salvadorans in Mexico continues to be a mystery. President Alfredo Cristiani said he asked the Salvadoran ambassador to Mexico to investigate the case of four Salvadorans who died under mysterious circumstances in Mexico while on their way to the United States. Cristiani added that the ambassador will inform him of the results of the investigations.

[Begin Cristiani recording] We have asked our ambassador to Mexico to make the necessary inquiries regarding the incident and to inform us of the results. [end recording]

Regarding the report issued by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, which states that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] still has weapons that were not presented for inventory, Cristiani said it is important to find a satisfactory solution to this problem so as not to hinder the peace process.

[Begin Cristiani recording] There have been some problems because all the weapons were not turned in. We have been trying to find ways to ensure compliance with this requirement and at the same time maintain the necessary stability for the peace process. This is what the country needs most: national stability. [end recording]

One year after the cease-fire went into effect, Cristiani said it has been satisfactory and is an example for other countries because there have been no violations by the signatories of the peace agreements.

Army Considers Force Reduction Process Completed

PA0302150393 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 1 Feb 93 p 21

[Text] The Army considers complete the process for reducing its force from 53,000 to half strength in compliance with the peace agreements signed by the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. The demobilization of an elite battalion on 6 February is still pending, however.

The Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa] has announced that the high command has fulfilled one year ahead of schedule the force reduction plan it proposed to the United Nations within the framework of the Chapultepec Agreement.

Coprefa reports that the dissolution of the Manuel Jose Arce Battalion will take place on 6 February because that is what was decided upon in the last rescheduling in October 1992. Coprefa noted that the Arce Battalion's approximately 1,200 members will be discharged on that day.

President Cristiani explained that for "budget reasons" the Armed Forces reduction plan was carried out one year ahead of the date established in the agreements signed by the government and the FMLN on 16 January 1992 in Chapultepec.

Spanish General Victor Suanzes, commander of the military division of the UN Observers for El Salvador, has reported that according to his estimates, the Army has demobilized more than 50 percent of its forces.

The Spanish general commented: "All the battalions scheduled for demobilization in line with the Armed Forces reduction plan have already been demobilized. According to official reports, budget matters prompted an early completion of the demobilization."

General Suanzes said the reduction process took place "normally" and that UN observers have witnessed from the field the dissolution of Army units and the discharge of most of their members.

COPREFA reported that 346 soldiers of the Salvadoran Air Force Health Battalion and 213 from the Paratrooper Battalion have returned to civilian life.

Air Force Commander Colonel Hector Leonel Lobo has said that most of these troops have received training in trades such as tailoring, carpentry, and mechanics.

With the reincorporation of these soldiers into civilian life, a total of 1,500 troops have left the ranks of the Armed Forces in the past three days. In La Libertad Department, the Fourth Howitzer Battalion and the Teniente Ricardo Guzman Lara Battalion were dissolved on 29 and 30 January.

A total of 30 battalions headquartered in various military camps and barracks have been dissolved by the Army since the signing of the peace agreement. The dates for dissolving those units had not been established in the pacts but were envisioned as part of the Armed Forces reduction process that was to conclude in January 1994.

The Armed Forces have fulfilled their commitment to demobilize the Bracamonte, Ramon Belloso, Atlacatl, and Atonal immediate reaction battalions. Only the dissolution of the Manuel Jose Arce Battalion, headquartered in San Miguel in the eastern section of the country, is pending. The dissolution will take place on 6 February.

Air Force Discharges 559 Due to Peace Agreements

PA0302010793 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 1 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] In compliance with the peace agreements, 559 Air Force noncommissioned officers and soldiers were discharged from that Armed Forces unit.

The demobilization was witnessed by UN observers for El Salvador representatives. The ceremony was emotional, civically and morally stimulating, and holds great prospects for the demobilized, because they are leaving their weapons but have been trained as tailors, masons, mechanics, and farmers.

Salvadoran Air Force Commander Colonel Hector Leonel Lobo Perez thanked the soldiers abandoning their weapons for their excellent behavior in the defense and service of the Salvadoran people in protecting the fatherland from the threat of international communism.

Lobo Perez reminded the paratroopers that the Armed Forces will never forget them because, when the fatherland needed them the most, they served with honor, nobility, and characteristic Salvadoran bravery.

He spoke of how the Air Force strategically gave support to the infantry throughout El Salvador, with the main objective of safeguarding the fatherland's interests, which were threatened by international communism both within and from outside El Salvador.

Paratrooper Battalion Commander Colonel Mauricio Zamora Hernandez made similar remarks.

Guatemala

'Massive' Cases of Illegal Recruiting Noted

PA0202183093 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Massive cases of forced military recruitment on Guatemala's southern coast were reported over the weekend of 30 January. According to reports, military commissioners encouraged the capture of hundreds of youths in Santa Lucia Cotzumalguapa, Escuintla, and other towns in the area.

The sources admitted that there are apparently no minors among the recruits, but it was said that in certain cases the soldiers in charge of the recruitment had destroyed the captured youths' identification documents.

Defense Minister: Foreigners Manipulating Indians

PA0302041293 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 30 Jan 93 p 6

[Text] Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Garcia has reported that "foreigners who are in the country are illegally manipulating the Indians of Solola Department communities to pressure the Army into withdrawing from Military Zone 14 there."

The minister said he finds strange the fact that Indians from the high plains possess more than 2,000 pamphlets accusing the Army of violating human rights. This is why it is clear that foreign interests are involved." [quotation marks as published]

Garcia said that "in Costa Rica, three members of the Unitary Representation of the Guatemalan Opposition [Representacion Unitaria de la Oposicition Guatemalteca, RUOG] have decided that this year they will focus their efforts on discrediting the Army, the barrier that has blocked their ambitions.

"This is why," he added, "I am asking them to think carefully, because it is not by manipulating the minds of the Guatemalans or by taking advantage of situations that we will attain the peace the people need."

The minister said: "Everything the Indians say in the document they presented to the government is false. The Attorney General's Office is analyzing it because it contains insults and lies against us."

The minister added: The Constitution deals with withdrawals from military zones and it establishes that it is up to the government and state to station and maintain military units wherever they find it suitable for the nation's security.

The people of Solola are not the ones making these demands, the general said. He knows this because he spoke with those people and this is not the way they feel or speak, Garcia explained. He said, however, that certain groups want to manipulate this situation. For this reason, two foreigners who have well equipped offices in Solola are being investigated.

Honduras

President Callejas Introduces New Public Officials

PA0202202293 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 2 Feb 93 p 2

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa—[passage omitted] During a news conference, President Rafael Leonardo Callejas introduced the new public officials who were sworn in on 1 February: Economy Minister Carlos Chahin; Finance Minister Rene Ardon Matute; Deputy Finance Minister William Chong Wong; and Deputy Public Works Minister Jose Enrique Ayala. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Economy Minister on Production, Foreign Investment

PA0302014193 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Jan 93 pp 1, 7

[Interview with Economy Minister Pablo Pereira by Jose Joaquin Quadra S.; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Quadra] Engineer Pereira, why hasn't Nicaragua's development taken off?

[Pereira] I must begin by saying that our production level is high enough to prevent further decline. We ended the

year with a very modest increase in the gross domestic product but it is quite important to note the difference between the quantity and quality of our growth. By this I mean we have a good deal of well-being, domestic structural change, and production. Without altering our production figures, we can state the enormous benefits the country has received. I am saying this in reference to the distribution of income, private sector production, increased freedom of trade, etc., which substantially change how we do things, even if the sum total of those things remains the same.

[Quadra] But what about growth that decreases unemployment?

[Pereira] Unemployment is not a new problem. It goes a long way back. Making an economy more productive while reducing the size of the state apparatus usually fosters increased unemployment, especially in the public sector, because jobs are transferred from one sector to another. I am not attempting to conceal the fact that there has been an increase in unemployment, although I do not agree with the figures stated by many institutions. There has been a problem in establishing the existing unemployment level but, despite its being a problem, unemployment also gives us the opportunity to show that we have enormous potential. We could create growth in Nicaragua if we could provide people with productive jobs that would enhance their well-being and that of the entire society.

[Quadra] Why is it that countries like El Salvador, following a war, and Panama, following the invasion, have positive growth indices and Nicaragua does not?

[Pereira] El Salvador's productive apparatus was never altered as has Nicaragua's because it always followed a different pattern. In Nicaragua the state produced almost everything and the economy was fundamentally centralized and nationalized.

As we change this pattern or, in other words, improve the manner in which we do things, as we mentioned earlier, the quantity of our production may not necessarily improve but our growth and similarities with those countries will gradually increase.

A true economic structural adjustment calls for us to do things differently and better, without seeking to have the largest number of employees possible but rather to make employees highly productive for them to be sustainable. Otherwise, we will return to populist, short-term promises, a situation that our economy cannot withstand. The only way to achieve a healthy economy is to create jobs that are productive and sustainable.

[Quadra] Pereira, what has happened with the foreign investment that has not arrived? What does Nicaragua have to offer that would make a foreign investor inclined to invest in Nicaragua instead of another country like Costa Rica?

[Pereira] I can assert from my experience in Costa Rica that that country began to grow just as it reached a level of foreign investment of approximately $200 million annually, which is a goal that Nicaragua should accomplish. That is the source of power Nicaragua is after.

To make such a situation possible, investors look at a country's macroeconomic and social stability, the opportunities available, and the comparative advantages the country may offer.

In my opinion, Nicaragua has behaved very well, very competitively over the past two months and over the past six months regarding macroeconomic stability. It has presented rather acceptable credentials, although as a society it is still up to us to resolve the problem of improving our credentials in the areas of social and political stability, which are very important ingredients.

Political and social stability are not something the government decrees. They are made up by society. The government has the responsibility to offer facilities and ingredients so that society can maintain that stability. But the government does not define it; that is something we all have to contribute to. Indeed, if Nicaragua does not present first-class credentials in any area, it is in just this area—political and social stability.

Some investors worry about the outbreaks of instability in the country, even though they admit that there has been much improvement, that there is less instability. Some believe there are enough indicators to make an investment decision, while others would like to see a little more stability before deciding to go ahead.

Thus, taking a balance of the three or four variables, we have good credentials, but we need to continue to work as a society, as a government—partly civilian, partly political—with the church, and with everyone's help so that Nicaragua can perfect its credentials and be a good recipient of foreign investment.

[Quadra] The high costs of the Nicaraguan economy are an obstacle to foreign investment. How does the government expect to lower these costs?

[Pereira] Some costs are a result of our poverty, other costs are a result of our bureaucratic attitude, and others are a result of our environment. For example, it is very difficult for Nicaragua to offer cheap electric power or at a price competitive with Central America, because most of our power is generated by oil, the most expensive way of generating electricity.

Geothermal or hydroelectric power production is still not sufficient to improve this. This is part of our infrastructure, which we cannot easily change, although Nicaragua should move in that direction to produce more competitive power.

Other high costs are typical of bureaucracies, such as a lot of paperwork, something that we are working hard on, especially in the area of export promotion. We have designed mechanisms and legal frameworks to allow

exporters to ease these requirements, including reimbursing these additional costs, which we call our economy's bias against exports.

The Export Promotional Law serves to reimburse these additional costs through incentives. This does not prevent us from continuing to work to make cost reduction the general rule. To this end, we are creating under this ministry, through a presidential decree, the Economy Deregulation Unit [Unidad de Desregulacion de la Economia], which will be authorized to intervene with other sectors to simplify through deregulation, avoid bureaucracy, and review tariffs that will permit a drop in production costs. [passage omitted]

UNO Deputy Explains Assembly Strategy

PA0202161593 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 31 Jan 93 p 4

[Interview with Conservative Deputy Miriam Arguello by Elisa Maturana; place and date not given]

[Text] [Maturana] You promised that the Conservative Popular Alliance would return to the National Assembly once the elections for a new board of directors were held, but it has withdrawn from the sessions. Are you going to return?

[Arguello] We are going to return with the entire National Opposition Union [UNO]. We will act in accordance with the coalition's decisions because we are part of UNO.

We said we would not leave the legislature and we will not. We are implementing parliamentary strategies. It is not our strategy to have four-month absences as others have done (the Sandinists and the UNO Center Bloc). Instead, we are carrying out strategies like those undertaken in all legislatures around the world. We are not leaving the National Assembly for either an indefinite or definite period of time: We will be absent depending on circumstances.

[Maturana] Does that mean being absent from the agenda and only participating prior to each session?

[Arguello] I cannot tell you. We will play it by ear according to individual circumstances; otherwise, it would not be a strategy but a decision.

[Maturana] But the Citizens' Identification Law was approved and you were not present...

[Arguello] Look, we had already approved the identification card law (during the months when the Sandinist and UNO Center Bloc deputies were absent), so we did not think we had to reapprove a law that had already been passed.

[Maturana] Will you participate if the general budget law is presented?

[Arguello] Yes, we have to comply with everything dealing with the legislative function. We are bound to do so.

[Maturana] Are you not afraid that tactic will cause what happened to Roberto Moreno to happen again? He returned on the afternoon of 26 January and then other deputies left.

[Arguello] Roberto Moreno went to the Assembly because he was unaware of what we had decided upon in the meeting (prior to the session). I heard Roberto on television, and the Channel Six newscast did not coincide with what Roberto said. They distort what people say.

[Maturana] UNO demanded the immediate election of a new National Assembly board of directors. Does that make any sense if you are in the minority and would lose any election?

[Arguello] The current board of directors is illegal. It was convened and created by a military coup against the Assembly. That is why we challenge it, and that is why a new election must be held, bearing in mind what the Electoral Law states: "The UNO coalition has the right to a majority." There are two individuals on the board (Gustavo Tablada and Dennis Chavarria) who were expelled from UNO, so they are not representative of this coalition.

Now then, if by numerical minority you mean that we are 44 against 48, that makes no sense, because according to the electoral law, the UNO has the right to a majority.

[Maturana] How are you going to demand that right to a majority if you have a minority of deputies?

[Arguello] It must be respected, as we respected the FSLN's minority rights.

If we continue with that numerical plan, there will never be a solution unless the eight or nine (Center Bloc deputies) have become members of the Sandinist Front and it now has 48 deputies. That is the only way we could talk about it having a majority.

Steps must be taken to go back to the starting point based on UNO's right to a majority. Those who call themselves the UNO Center Bloc are only nine out of a total of 92 deputies. If we do not count them, the Sandinists have 39 and we have 44 deputies. Therefore, we are the majority group in the Assembly: the 43 UNO deputies and Moises Hassan.

[Maturana] You announced a "plan to defend democracy." What is your objective?

[Arguello] There are people determined to undertake a struggle here. From now to 25 February there is a plan to hold 15 more rallies. A new plan will be drawn up after that date. We plan to act on the basis of pressure by the people through a civic struggle.

[Maturana] Might that lead to an armed confrontation?

[Arguello] We would try to avoid it, but the executive branch, which has forced us to do this, has the greatest responsibility in preventing it. It would be its responsibility if things reach that point due to bad leadership.

[Maturana] Do you plan to continue with the idea of a plebiscite?

[Arguello] A plebiscite or a referendum. We would have to see. I think the people must be asked to cast a yes or no vote.

[Maturana] What if you received a no?

[Arguello] If it won, it could lead to the convening of a national constituent assembly.

[Maturana] In all honesty, is that your objective?

[Arguello] Even before the electoral campaign, my view was that this government should convene a constituent assembly three years after it took office. I always believed that the elected government should not remain in office for the term established in the Constitution. I believed that due to special circumstances such as the composition of UNO, the government should be one of transition so that later, in a reorganized situation and under a new democratic system, an election could be held.

Of course, we did not expect Mrs. Chamorro to turn over the government to her son-in-law (Antonio Lacayo), to have him act the way he has, and to see the things that have been taking place. In view of this situation, I think a plebiscite, a consultation with the people, must be held as a step to a national constituent assembly.

PANC Announces Restructure; Deputy Resigns

PA0302041893 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Feb 93 p 5

[Text] It has been officially announced through a press release that the Conservative National Action Party (PANC) has decided to restructure its national directorate. This decision was made after learning of the resignation of PANC Deputy Hernaldo Zuniga.

A communique, made public at the end of the week of 24 to 30 January, read that the decision was the result of the deputy's "conduct" during the past weeks when he decided to submit to the will of the National Opposition Union [UNO] block and "to remain sidelined" from his own party.

Frank Duarte, National Assembly first secretary, took over as head of the PANC block. He is now the sole member of the PANC block in the assembly since the only two block members prior to Zuniga's resignation had been himself and Zuniga.

The split took place when Duarte withdrew from the National Assembly last September along with the Sandinists deputies and members of the so-called "Groups of Center" UNO deputies. The withdrawal was a result of the political crisis within the National Assembly which resulted from the challenges made to the 2 September sessions.

Duarte then accepted the position of National Assembly first secretary following an election, the results of which have been challenged by UNO. Zuniga remained in Parliament and accompanied the rest of the coalition headed by Alfredo Cesar.

Duarte is a National Assembly Board of Directors member and it is believed that Zuniga's conduct is a "clear-cut break" from the PANC.

D. Ortega Acknowledges Decline in FSLN Support

PA0302031293 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Feb 93, p 2

[Article by Alvaro Cruz Rojas]

[Text] Daniel Ortega, former Nicaraguan president and secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], acknowledged the loss of that party's popularity during an FSLN assembly held on the weekend of 30 January. Ortega said: "The polls indicate that 22 to 26 percent of the population are stable FSLN supporters."

"We cannot afford to lose this political capital. The enemy is attempting to weaken us. I do not know to what extent we have lost our political influence," said Ortega, who appeared concerned.

Ortega added that the "Sandinists' challenge is to understand we face a new reality that started with the ousting of the Sandinists from the government." He added: "It is an error to keep up certain forms of organization that were in place when we were in power. If we hold on to old ways, we risk frustration and shortcomings," Ortega said.

During the 1990 election that gave the National Opposition Union the victory that brought Violeta Barrios de Chamorro to power, the FSLN secured 40 percent of the vote.

During his speech, Ortega articulated a series of ambiguities that some of his critics have called "double standards."

Internal divisions started to appear in the FSLN last year when the so-called "National Convergence Movement" sprung up. This movement is led by Alejandro Serrano Caldera, former president of the Supreme Court of Justice and National University president.

Ortega called on party members "to maintain party unity," while he urged the 26 percent who support the

FSLN "to influence the rest of the community to defend the rights of Nicaraguans and to take over the government again, in due time."

Spanish Government Reaffirms Continued Cooperation

PA0302033593 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Feb 93 pp 1, 12

[Report by Felix Navarrete]

[Excerpt] Inocencio Arias, Spanish secretary of state for international cooperation, announced on 31 January that the Spanish Government will help Nicaragua in a drug prevention project and will continue to support tourist industry development, help fight housing shortages, and help train police and Sandinist People's Army [EPS] officers.

Arias said that police and Army scholarships and apprenticeship programs will be maintained, as will social and tourist cooperation. Arias is convinced that in Nicaragua "the Spanish Government aid is useful and obvious" and will continue to increase.

"We have been able to verify that Spanish cooperation with Nicaragua is useful and we leave satisfied," Arias said in brief statements to local and international reporters minutes before departing in a private airplane under a hot summer sun.

The Spanish secretary for international cooperation was seen off by his colleague Erwin Kruger and Spanish Ambassador Miguel Angel Fernandez de Mazarambroz in Managua Airport's protocol room. [passage omitted]

Panama

Task Force Formed To Rescue Kidnappees

PA0302003593 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The government has ordered the immediate deployment of public security forces to Darien Province, where two North Americans and one Peruvian were kidnapped by members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC]. President Guillermo Endara summoned the Special Reaction Group [Grupo Especial de Reaccion] to conduct operations in Darien and put National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez in charge of the operation. The task force, which has the rescue of the hostages as its first mission, is formed by members of all of the public security corps, namely the National Police, the National Air Service [SAN], National Marine Service, the Judicial Technical Police, and the Institutional Protection Service. Fernandez appointed SAN Director Major Cristobal Fundora as field chief and National Police Captain Tomas Garcia Tovar as his assistant. In addition to rescuing the hostages, the government is seeking to persuade the FARC guerrillas to leave the country, which they entered illegally. The Colombian and Panamanian Governments are coordinating efforts to try to rescue the hostages. Here is Ciro Ortega with the details.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] The kidnapping took place in Pocuro Corregimiento and was allegedly carried out by a Colombian guerrilla cell. Pocuro is located on the border with Colombia, which has lush vegetation. [passage omitted]

Darien Governor Lesbia Alarcon clearly stated that the area is not patrolled and that there are constant incursions by Colombian guerrillas into the border zone. She added that no direct contact has been made with the kidnappers. [passage omitted]

[Fernandez] We are coordinating with Colombian authorities and have asked Foreign Minister Julio Linares to help as appropriate.

[First unidentified reporter] You are sending special forces to Darien. What weapons are they going to use, and how many men are going?

[Fernandez] I cannot tell you that for the security of the people going there.

[Reporter] What information do you have about a ransom?

[Second unidentified reporter] Have any contacts been made?

[Fernandez] Not yet.

[Ortega] As of now, no direct contact had been made with the Colombian guerrillas who perpetrated the kidnapping. We have no information on the condition of the three kidnapped missionaries. [end recording]

Police Clash With Demonstrators in Pacora

PA0302035293 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0005 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Panama City 2 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Riot police and residents of Pacora, east of Panama City, clashed on 2 February, resulting in two policemen being injured and nine people arrested. Pacora residents protested the extraction of stone and gravel from a local river.

Police used tear gas to disperse approximately 50 people who had lay down on the street to block traffic and to call the authorities' attention to the alleged contamination by a mining company of the waters of the "Tatare River," from which they obtain drinking water.

Julio Cesar Puertas, one of the demonstrators, told journalists that community children, adults, and youngsters who participated in the protest, were dispersed by riot police using tear gas, bird shot, and shooting in the air.

A police source told ACAN-EFE that two riot police units were injured by stones and nine demonstrators were arrested. They denied shooting in the air.

Pacora residents for more than a year have demanded the withdrawal of a mining license from the "Shahani" Company because, according to them, the river has been contaminated by oil and petroleum from the backhoes.

Failed Attack Aimed To Down Power Pylon

PA0202170993 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Unidentified individuals attempted to attack Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification [IRHE] installations in Veladero, Gualaca District, Chiriqui Province, thus endangering the country's electric system.

The action was apparently aimed at downing a 230-kilowatt power pylon. The attack failed thanks to IRHE's systematic inspection of its electricity network as well as the rapid response and expertise in repairing the damage.

A communique signed by IRHE Director Gonzalo Cordoba states that the energy transmission system is operating normally. It also repudiates and condemns this new criminal action.

Legislators Question Extension of Special Sessions

PA0302031393 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Internal confrontations have increased within the Legislative Assembly. At the beginning of the afternoon session on 1 February, opposition legislators protested serious violations by the Board of Directors.

Special legislative sessions to approve in second debate the bill creating the Interoceanic Region Authority, ARI, were resumed on the afternoon of 1 February. At the beginning of the debates, which according to the Board of Directors were a continuation of the 28 January session, legislators of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, and the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, requested that a new session be called, stating that the first call to special sessions made by President Endara ended on 29 January. This situation caused strong discussions between legislators and the Board of Directors.

According to the opposition legislators, at the moment the Legislative Assembly has not received the presidential decree extending the special sessions.

[Begin recording] [PRD Legislator Miguel Bush] We were called to special sessions for 15 working days, beginning on 11 January. Those 15 days ended on 29 January. If this is a new call for special sessions to discuss the ARI, we must start the debates on the ARI bill all over again after a second call for special sessions.

[PDC Legislator Alfredo Ehlers] At this moment the session is being held as a continuation of the 28 January session. A request was made to verify the quorum, which was very precarious, as only 34 legislators were present. This number is being questioned by some legislators. We are waiting to see if the chairman decides to close this session and begin a new period of special sessions, or to extend the special sessions.

[Legislative Assembly President Lucas Zarak) It is a matter of interpretation. For us the 15 working days will end on 3 February, and there is nothing else to be discussed. [end recording]

Despite the heated discussions, the second debate on Article 2 of the law creating the ARI was initiated. This article establishes some definitions, including canal area, reverted areas, interoceanic region, treaty, general plan, hydrographic basin, and regional plan.

It is expected that the law will be approved before 28 February in the third debate.

Presidential Commission Reports on Chorrillo Funds

PA0302042993 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The presidential commission that made a study on the use of funds to rebuild Chorrillo presented its report to the president on 1 February. The report states that there has been no mishandling of funds.

[Begin recording, Commission President Rogelio Delgado] We have reached the following conclusions:

A. Only the agreement for the emergency Chorrillo apartment rebuilding project, worth $2.5 million, was destined exclusively for the Chorrillo homeless.

B. The agreement for the immediate recovery project originally had three main parts.

1. Housing for displaced Chorrillo families.
2. Funds for emergency work, at the national level, especially in the cities of Panama, Colon, the San Miguelito District, and Bocas del Toro Province.
3. Technical and product assistance.

Afterward, a contingency fund was created and another fund to attend to the families housed at Albrook.

C. Only the first fund of this second agreement for the immediate recovery project and the fund to attend to families at Albrook were destined exclusively for the Chorrillo homeless. The total amount of this fund was $17,228,820.

D. Due to Paragraph E, Requirements, under section D-2, called Reimbursement, of Annex No. 2 of the immediate recovery project and the emergency

rebuilding agreement of the Chorrillo apartment buildings, the interest that may have been earned was to be returned to the U.S. AID by the Panamanian Government.

We found no cases of earned interest, so there is nothing to return.

E. In the random checks made of public bids in connection with projects for the Chorrillo homeless, no irregularities or violations of the fiscal code were observed.

F. The technical inspection carried out in the various areas established that the buildings were made within the agreed specifications, within the areas established in the donation agreement, and as per the construction contracts.

G. The commission has found no evidence of any withdrawal or deviation of funds to any other destination or purpose from that which was agreed.

H. The presidential commission, after studying the U.S. donation agreements through the AID, believes that these funds were used correctly and as outlined in the spirit and letter of the agreements. [end recording]

Argentina

President Suspends 12 Feb Trip to Chile

PY0202185593 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The contents of a letter sent by President Carlos Menem to his Chilean counterpart, Patricio Aylwin, was released today in Santiago, Chile. In his letter, Menem informs Aylwin that he will not be able to make his scheduled visit to Chile on 12 February in light of last-minute problems.

Menem was planning to attend the celebrations to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Chacabuco, in which the liberating army of General Jose de San Martin defeated the Spanish forces and obtained the independence of Chile.

The Argentine ambassador to Chile said that Menem's trip was suspended because of internal problems and some domestic trips the president is scheduled to make at that time.

Discusses Visit to Switzerland

PY0202193493 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] President Carlos Menem has signed political, economic, trade, and financial agreements in Bern, Switzerland. Among these agreements is one rescheduling the Argentine debt with the Paris Club members.

Another agreement was instrumental in reducing the Argentine debt with Swiss banks. Menem said this agreement reflects the trust Argentina has earned in Europe as a result of the major structural changes undertaken in our country.

Menem also signed a joint statement with Adolf Ogi of the Swiss Confederation. The statement states that negotiations are under way between a consortium of Swiss banks and the Argentine Investment and Foreign Trade Bank [Banco de Inversiones y Comercio Exterior Argentino] regarding the opening of a basic credit of 100 million Swiss francs earmarked for the supply of Swiss-made equipment to Argentina.

Commenting on the achievements of his visit to Switzerland, President Menem said:

[Begin Menem recording] It has been very positive. You are well aware that Switzerland is one of the world's main financial centers. Everything that happens in Switzerland has an immediate impact on the rest of the world. It has been confirmed here through all the news conferences, lectures, and speeches that Argentina has become a reliable, trustworthy country.

Proof of this is the joint statement I have signed with the Swiss Government, with the Swiss president. This is a very uncommon, infrequent event. As far as I know, the Swiss are seldom inclined to sign this type of statement. Furthermore, we have renegotiated our foreign debt with the Swiss banks. This is a tangible achievement we can mention here. It should be noted that the interest rate was reduced by half a point. This reduction is important in light of the amount that is being renegotiated; 265 million francs.

Furthermore, you have also reported on the future investments in the mining area based on the new mining law. Major investments will also be made in agricultural projects by companies that are already based in Argentina and by other companies that will be established there this year. I repeat that all this has been achieved thanks to the presence of the Argentine delegation here in Switzerland. [end recording]

Today Menem will visit Sion, Valais, some 350 km from Bern. He will fly back to Argentina from Geneva. He is scheduled to arrive in Buenos Aires on 3 February.

Returns, Meets With Ministers

PY0302122593 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1043 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Feb (NA)—President Carlos Menem arrived just before 0730 at the Ezeiza International Airport from a one-week tour of Switzerland.

He was welcomed at the airport by Labor Minister Enrique Rodriguez; Health Minister Julio Cesar Araoz; Interior Minister Gustavo Beliz; Education Minister Jorge Rodriguez; Justice Minister Jorge Maiorano; and Eduardo Bauza, the presidential secretary general.

Menem immediately held a meeting at the airport with these cabinet members while the presidential plane waited to take them to Salta Province where they will discuss the cholera issue.

Bolivia

Justice Rules Out Possibility of Extradition

PY0202144093 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Supreme Court Justice Adam Soria Diez Canseco has reported that the Nicaraguan Government has not requested the extradition of Antonio Ibarra Rodriguez from the Bolivian Government. Ibarra is the former deputy minister of the Nicaraguan Government. Justice Soria Diez Canseco further stated that he learned that Ibarra had been arrested in Cochabamba on embezzlement charges filed by Nicaragua's Office of the Comptroller General. Ibarra is accused of having embezzled $1 million from the Welfare Fund for the Oppressed.

According to Justice Soria Diez Canseco, there is no possibility of extraditing Ibarra because there is no extradition treaty signed between Bolivia and Nicaragua.

[Begin Soria Diez Canseco recording] We have not signed any extradition treaty with Nicaragua. There is

therefore no legal framework that will allow Ibarra's extradition to Nicaragua. It has not come to our knowledge that the Nicaraguan Supreme Court has sent a letter to the Bolivian Supreme Court, which is the standard legal procedure for such requests. [end recording]

Anti-Cholera Measures Adopted With Argentina

PY0302015493 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Excerpt] New preventive policies will be implemented after meetings held by Bolivian and Argentine health committees headed by Bolivian Health Minister Carlos Dabdoub and Argentine National Health Secretary Alberto Mazza. The new policies will seek to control the spread of cholera.

The concern caused by the rapid spread of cholera and the cautiousness with which Argentine authorities are treating Bolivian citizens—who are considered vectors of the disease—have prompted the adoption of several actions to control the entry and transit of Bolivian citizens in Argentina. Several preventive policies have been implemented. A meeting of the health commissions has been scheduled for 25 or 26 February in Santa Cruz.

[Begin recording] [Dabdoub, in progress] ... address the issue of the flow of food from Bolivia to Argentina and from Argentina to our country. Argentina has imposed some restrictions on some farm products. At the Santa Cruz meeting we will jointly work to eliminate those barriers.

[Mazza] The Argentine Government's main objective is to prevent the entry into our territory of unauthorized workers or illegal immigrants who can later obtain a job because, since they are illegal immigrants, their situation can be disadvantageous and they can become vectors of this or any other disease. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Brazil

Franco Bans Aides From Talking to Press

PY0202232093 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 2 Feb 93 p 3

[Text] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco reacted indignantly to news reports last weekend and prohibited his close aides from talking to journalists. This information was confirmed by Civilian Household Chief Henrique Hargreaves last night after a ceremony during which Franco unveiled a portrait of Senator Nelson Carneiro (PMDB-RJ) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party - Rio de Janeiro] in the Senate's Noble Hall.

Hargreaves told GLOBO: "The president has come to the conclusion that there is no point in talking to the media which only publishes what it wants to publish."

The report on Finance Minister Paulo Haddad's tiredness, which he denied during a brief interview, was the final straw that annoyed Itamar. Hargreaves said that the so-called "house ministers," among them adviser Jose de Castro Ferreira, were informed of the ban on talking to journalists. Even Haddad has been prohibited from talking to the media.

The minister said: "First the media says that Ze [Jose] de Castro and I quarrel, then they say that both of us quarrel with Haddad. They even said that I seek presidential favoritism."

Hargreaves complained again about the media to Deputy Jose Genoino (PT-SP) [Workers Party - Sao Paulo]. After greeting the minister, Genoino commented on Haddad's situation.

"There is someone in Planalto trying to discredit Haddad, and every time news on the inflation rate is published it increases by two points" commented Genoino, a declared critic of adviser Jose de Castro, who is believed to be trying to "discredit" the finance minister.

Threatens To Use 'Stronger Medicine'

PY0302020893 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho has settled his disagreement with President Itamar Franco and authorized his party bloc to vote in favor of the fiscal reform.

Before meeting with Governor Fleury Filho, President Itamar threatened to use stronger medicine to curb inflation.

President Franco stated today that the government is treating the inflation problem with syrup but since it has no effect the government will have to review the dosage or use a stronger medicine. However, he guaranteed that there will be no package of measures nor price controls. The path to be taken, according to the president, is to assess the state of the enterprises in order to detect the cause of the inflation disease. [passage omitted]

Chamber of Deputies, Senate Elect Presidents

PY0302131893 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By Jorge Banburger from the Senate]

[Text] Deputy Inocencio Oliveira, from the PFL [Liberal Front Party] of Pernambuco, has been elected Chamber of Deputies president by 311 votes to 177 votes for rival Deputy Odacir Klein from the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] of Rio Grande do Sul.

Oliveira announced his goals as president of the Chamber of Deputies:

[Begin Oliveira recording] I will try to create the conditions in the Chamber of Deputies to face the great

challenges that come ahead: the plebiscite, the constitutional amendments, party and electoral laws, complementary regulatory laws for the new constitution, and many others. [end recording]

According to the Constitution, as president of the Chamber of Deputies, Oliveira is the eventual substitute of President Itamar Franco, given that the position of vice president of the Republic is vacant.

The Senate also elected its president for the 1993-1994 period. He is Senator Humberto Lucena, from the PMDB of Paraiba, who has been acclaimed as the only candidate. He succeeds Senator Mauro Benevides who will become PMDB leader in the Senate.

Lawyer Leaves Former President Defense Team

PY0202232493 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 2 Feb 93 p 7

[Excerpt] Brasilia—Lawyer Jose Guilherme Villela announced yesterday that he has withdrawn from the defense of former President Fernando Collor in the Senate, but he denied that the reason for his withdrawal was because he was not paid. In a note released by Collor's advisers, Villela said he withdrew because of "personal problems" and that he would never charge a fee for a cause he believes to be a public service.

Reluctant to speak about the reason for his decision, Villela asserted that it was not motivated by the fact of being dismissed from the impeachment process with lawyer Evaristo de Moraes Filho. Villela did not comment on the speculation that he was not paid.

He said: This is a matter that concerns me and the former president. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Interview With Government Minister Ramirez

PA0202235593 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Interview with Government and Interior Minister Fabio Villegas Ramirez by News Director Dario Arizmendi—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] Good morning, Government and Interior Minister Fabio Villegas Ramirez.

[Villegas Ramirez] Good morning, Dario.

[Arizmendi] What does the government expect now that it has increased the reward to 5 billion pesos for anyone who provides information on the whereabouts of Pablo Escobar Gaviria? Why did the people not cooperate in providing this information when the reward was 2.7 billion?

[Villegas Ramirez] Dario, the truth is that we have been receiving wide cooperation from the people of Medellin. The security organizations have been receiving significant information from the people. This information has allowed them to deal harsh blows to the criminal organization headed by Pablo Escobar Gaviria. With this measure, however, we seek not only to motivate the determination of those who want to cooperate with justice in the arrest of this criminal, but also to send the message loud and clear that the national government does not hesitate in its determination to fight these narcoterrorist organizations.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Minister, where are we going to get those additional 2.3 billion pesos to add up to that fabulous amount of 5 billion?

[Villegas Ramirez] Well, I think these narcoterrorist organizations have caused sufficient moral, economic, and social expenses, as well as bloodshed in the country. That justifies the state and society in general making an economic sacrifice for the purpose of defeating these organized crime societies.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Minister, on 1 February some media received an alleged communique handwritten by Pablo Escobar Gaviria and marked with his fingerprint. Has the government been able to determine the authenticity of this communique, this letter addressed to the president of the Republic, which contains a list of charges? Has it confirmed that he wrote this letter?

[Villegas Ramirez] I do not have information on the letter's authenticity. I understand that some communiques, which some attribute to Pablo Escobar, are attributed by others to other terrorist organizations. We prefer simply to continue to call on the people to cooperate with the authorities so that, once and for all, we will be able to solve the problem of terrorism.

I think that Colombia and the people in general have no other option than to defeat narcoterrorism to achieve peace and tranquillity. That is the line of behavior that the government has devised. That is the line of behavior that the country should adopt and all Colombians should join it with courage and with a high sense of patriotism.

[Arizmendi] Minister Fabio Villegas, what is the government's reaction to the alleged charges by Pablo Escobar against government officials and police officers concerning violations, torture, and missing persons?

[Villegas Ramirez] Obviously, concerned organizations, such as the Attorney General's Office, have been investigating this. They are very interested in this and are obliged to investigate any violations by the authorities. But the important thing here is that the country not be left to make a mistake. It cannot be left deceived by the criminal organizations. In this case the enemies of all Colombians, of peace, tranquillity, and harmony, are not the security organizations or the police, who have already paid a very high price. They have paid with bloodshed and with the lives of many of their members in the struggle for peace and tranquillity for all Colombians. The enemies of peace and tranquillity are those

who are placing the car bombs, who are shedding the blood of innocent people in the country's major cities.

[Arizmendi] What does the government think about the creation of a group of persons who claim they are persecuted by Pablo Escobar and who have announced that they will bomb and carry out acts of terrorism against persons close to Pablo Escobar?

[Villegas Ramirez] The government rejects all efforts by anyone who seeks to confront terrorism with more terrorism, who seeks to face violence with more violence. The government claims for itself the monopoly and the legitimate use of force; it rejects any form of private justice. The government rejects any organization of persons who seek to use force and terror to deal with problems that are the state's responsibility. The government calls on the people's solidarity with the legitimate authorities, with the police and the public force, so that together we will be able to eliminate this evil.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Minister, we believe that Medellin is pretty much controlled by the authorities. It is under military control after the national government's assistance in increasing the forces there. How is it possible that there have been three terrorist attacks and that a group of over 15 men has been able to enter the city as if it was their own home? How did they get as far as El Penol without being seen at any police roadblock?

[Villegas Ramirez] Look Dario, it is not really easy to try to prevent persons with such criminal instincts from placing a car bomb in any given part of the city. As we have seen in recent days, these criminal organizations do not have specific goals. They do not care if they put the car bomb on a particular street; they just want to sow terror and death, to create panic and sorrow among the people.

Under these circumstances, we think the only option Colombians have in this struggle against narcoterrorism is not to place a policeman on every corner but to be able to eliminate these organizations and turn them over to the courts of justice. It is important for the citizens to cooperate with the authorities, for the good citizens to provide us with the information that will allow us to be successful in this endeavor.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Minister, many citizens feel defenseless, particularly in Medellin and Santa Fe de Bogota. Here in Santa Fe de Bogota there is certainly a wave of psychological terror. Are we in a state of emergency or in a state of alert? What is the situation in Santa Fe de Bogota, according to the authorities?

[Villegas Ramirez] Well, a true threat was made a few days ago by the criminal organization headed by Pablo Escobar. This threat has materialized with actions such as the ones that took place on 30 January. Obviously, security organizations are paying close attention to this emergency situation. The police have deployed as much as possible to prevent future attacks. Above all, we believe, and I repeat, that the important thing is that we be capable of defeating these narcoterrorist organizations. That can only be done with the people's strong support.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Minister, a report in the magazine SEMANA says that some of the informers who gave information to the Attorney General's Office reportedly told that publication that Pablo Escobar Gaviria has the support of some guerrilla groups. Could this be true?

[Villegas Ramirez] I have no information on that.

[Arizmendi] In terms of military strength, do you think Pablo Escobar and his organization are more powerful than before?

[Villegas Ramirez] No, I think that the security organizations, all good Colombians, and the authorities representing the people have advanced in dealing blows against them and diminishing the military capabilities of these narcoterrorist organizations. Obviously, we cannot ignore the threat these organizations represent to the country. We are obligated to continue struggling without yielding to defeat him and turn him over to justice.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Minister, how much does the government plan to increase its rewards, since it seems the 2.7 billion pesos were not enough?

[Villegas Ramirez] The government made this decision, and as I said, it seeks not only to provide greater incentives for those who want to provide the information, but also to send a loud and clear signal to the country that the government does not hesitate in its determination to bring Pablo Escobar Gaviria to justice.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Minister, to change the subject, has the government been able to make any contact with the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board for a new dialogue?

[Villegas Ramirez] No. No contact has been made with these subversive organizations. We believe conditions do not exist for a dialogue. We believe that these subversive organizations do not really want peace. We believe in a political solution; we encourage a political solution. Nonetheless, we feel that to hold a dialogue just for the sake of holding a dialogue does nothing more than lessen the legitimacy of that political solution. We refrain from holding talks with the guerrilla organizations until we are fully convinced that those talks will lead to the peace all Colombians are yearning for.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Minister, the District Attorney's Office has ordered the arrest of four congressmen and ordered that they be suspended. The Senate and the House have said they will not allow the arrest of those four congressmen. If the District Attorney's Office were to request the government's participation in arresting these four congressmen, on whose side would the government be?

[Villegas Ramirez] The government is not on anyone's side. The government is on the side of justice and law.

The government feels this situation should be solved in a legal manner, and we hope it will be solved soon.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Minister, the newspaper EL TIEMPO on 1 February reported that it had received several telephone calls in which Pablo Escobar allegedly made some demands on the District Attorney's Office. One of these demands calls for the government to run newspaper and television announcements offering rewards for the Cali Cartel chieftains. Is the government planning to do this?

[Villegas Ramirez] No, the government actually takes action after measuring the risks, threats, and characteristics of the criminal organizations, and the priorities that exist at a specific time. That is what the government has been doing, trying to confront crime throughout the country. The government does not take action based on any threats or at the request of criminal organizations.

[Arizmendi] In measuring the risks, the government has then decided not to confront the Cali Cartel in a strong manner?

[Villegas Ramirez] No, that is absolutely false. I think there have been firm reports in the last few weeks that show the government continues its all out struggle against narcoterrorist organizations throughout the country.

[Arizmendi] That is correct, but are the Cali Cartel chieftains not considered as fugitive and criminal as those of the Medellin Cartel? There is an impression that the government does not disseminate through the press, on television, or in flyers its requests for information on the Cali Cartel.

[Villegas Ramirez] No, that is absolutely false. There is a policy allowing them to turn themselves in to the authorities and to cooperate with justice. This policy is in effect for all criminal organizations and for all those who really want to receive its benefits. In fact, we have obtained important results that have to do with various narcotics trafficking cartels on various fronts in various areas of the country. The National Police have arrested important members of those narcotics trafficking organizations, and they will continue to do so.

[Arizmendi] The people wonder that if the government offers 5 billion pesos for Pablo Escobar, why not offer the same or something similar for the Cali Cartel chiefs?

[Villegas Ramirez] We believe that from the point of view of peace and tranquillity for citizens, it is now most important to defeat the criminal organization headed by Pablo Escobar. His hired gunmen have been enslaving the people in a reign of terror. They have been placing bombs in Santa Fe de Bogota and Medellin that have caused death and tragedy among innocent civilians.

[Arizmendi] The people are very afraid and wonder if the government will be able to confront simultaneously and win the wars against narcotics traffickers, guerrillas, and corruption?

[Villegas Ramirez] I think the government has the constitutional and legal obligation to fight against crime and against those who act outside the law. If this country, unfortunately, presents these challenges to the authorities, civilian society, and good Colombians, we then have no other option but to confront them.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Minister, does this mean that the government has a policy for the narcotics traffickers and another one for the terrorists?

[Villegas Ramirez] The government policy is to fight crime wherever it may be, making use of all available resources.

[Arizmendi] Is Pablo Escobar a narcoterrorist or a narcotrafficker, or is he....[pauses] How does the central government describe him?

[Villegas Ramirez] It is very clear to all Colombians that the origin of his actions is narcotics trafficking but that he also carries out indiscriminate terrorist acts against the country, against innocent Colombians, against all good Colombians. He has sowed terror and shed the blood of many innocent men, women, and children.

[Arizmendi] We thank Government Minister Fabio Villegas Ramirez for this interview. Have a nice day.

[Villegas Ramirez] Thank you.

U.S. Aircraft Involved in Accident at Airport

PA0202182093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1621 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 2 Feb (EFE)—Civil Aeronautics sources have told EFE that an airplane belonging to the U.S. Challenge Air Cargo firm was involved in an accident on 2 February on the runway of Santa Fe de Bogota's El Dorado Airport. The accident forced the suspension of air operations in the Colombian capital.

A Civil Aeronautics spokesman explained that the landing gear of the Douglas DC-8 aircraft broke down early today when the plane was about to take off for Miami with a cargo of Colombian flowers.

Airline employees who were consulted about the accident said they were not authorized to release any information.

The accident resulted in the suspension of commercial flights and limited terminal operations to two light planes, thus reducing normal activities by 70 percent.

According to Civil Aeronautics officials, there was also bad weather in Santa Fe de Bogota, Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Cucuta, and Pereira, which caused a delay of up to seven hours in the departure and arrival of planes and the transfer of some passengers to other airports aboard smaller planes.

Pablo Escobar Associates To Testify

PA0302133693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Four of Pablo Escobar Gaviria's lieutenants who are currently serving time at Itagui have agreed to testify in exchange for reduced sentences. The men are: (Valentin De Jesus Caborda), Juan Enrique Urquijo, Gustavo Gonzalez Florez, and Luis Fernando Henao, alias El Misil. [passage omitted]

Thanks to a citizen's call, the Administrative Department of Security discovered a weapons cache hidden in a bar in Ibague. The weapons belonged to a group of urban guerrillas According to the authorities, attacks were planned against an immediate attention center and the office of a high-ranking departmental government official. [passage omitted]

Two Cocaine Processing Laboratories Destroyed

PA0202194493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Report by Azuzena Lievano]

[Text] Two new cocaine processing laboratories were dismantled in Arauca Department by Antiguerrilla Battalion troops. The operation took place in Santa Ana community, Arauquita jurisdiction.

Authorities confiscated 285 gallons of gasoline, 14 drums of processed coca leaves, several bundles of lime, and four kg of cocaine paste.

The Command Operative troops located the rustic laboratories in the middle of 10 hectares of plantations. At least 14 persons were arrested during the operation, including three youths.

Splinter Guerrilla Group Attacks Caloto

PA0202200793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Report by Pilar Hung]

[Text] Residents of Caloto in northern Cauca Department panicked in the early morning hours of 2 February when approximately 20 armed men claiming to be members of the 19 April Movement splinter group attempted to take over the village. Their main objective was the Agrarian Fund, which they partially destroyed with dynamite explosions. Most of the damage was inside, where the entire banking section, office equipment, files, and archives were destroyed.

Agrarian Fund employees attempted to rescue what little could be saved this morning amid destroyed desks and broken glass.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] People lived through a long one and a half hours of panic in Caloto. [end recording]

The guerrillas left behind pamphlets such as this in which they call themselves the M-19 Dissident Jaime Bateman Cayon Group [Grupo Jaime Bateman Cayon, Disidente del M-19].

Workers Revolutionary Party Leader Murdered

PA0102210093 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Jan 93 p 12a

[From "Balcony" Column]

[Text] Santa Marta—Pedro Manuel Teran Samper, the 34 year-old leader of the Workers Revolutionary Party, was shot to death in El Reten, Aracataca (Magdalena).

Wilfrido Miranda Porras, a 41 year-old farmer, was wounded in the incident and taken to the Santa Marta Social Security Clinic. Police believe the crime was politically motivated.

Ecuador

Free Trade Agreement With Venezuela Begins

PA0302041393 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2200 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Mauricio Pinto, Ecuadoran minister of industry, commerce, integration, and fisheries, has said that as of 1 February the free trade agreement between Ecuador and Venezuelan will come into force. There will be free trade of goods and services between the nations. Minister Pinto said that from Ecuador's point of view, this trade and economic alliance with Venezuela has two objectives. The first is to recover and consolidate one of the most important markets in the Andean region for local exports. The second is to attract and channel important investment opportunities for Ecuador from Venezuela. These investments would be directed to several productive and service sectors, particularly the agriculture, industry, tourism, banking, and financial sectors. Here is Minister Pinto:

[Begin Pinto recording] As of 1 October we had implemented a free trade agreement with Colombia. On 1 February we implemented a free trade agreement with Venezuela, thereby forming a free trade region among Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Bolivia. The estimated data, the data we have on free trade with Colombia since 1 October, is encouraging. This makes us feel optimistic that we will have similar results with Venezuela. We must recall that in 1981 and 1982, Ecuador was engaged in significant trade with Venezuela. Our intention is to recover this trade. [end recording]

Minister Pinto said that Ecuadoran exports this year could reach and even surpass $100 million, simply by recovering past trade and by incorporating the products that are now exported not only to the Andean nations but also to tough markets such as Europe and the United States.

Military Deployed Due to Strike in Guayaquil

PA0202165893 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The Presidency of the Republic has ordered the military forces to take control of the Guayaquil Port Authority installations.

The port workers have called a preventive strike to pressure the government into signing a new collective contract and relocate over 50 employees.

In light of the workers' position, the National Government ordered the Army intervention to protect the installations.

Marco Leon, president of the Port Authority Board of Directors, said the presence of soldiers at the offices is justified because the country's maritime control has a great deal of strategic importance.

Paraguay

U.S. Ambassador Labeled 'National Spokesman'

PY0102201793 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 31 Jan 93 p 12

[Article by Fernando Cazenave: "Blind Man's Guide"]

[Text] In the past, the blind needed a guide or a Marianela [title of a novel] like the one described by Galdos [Spanish writer Benito Perez Galdos—1843-1920]. Fortunately, nowadays, despite their handicap, the blind handle themselves much better than those who can see. For example, the politically blind, a version of the species that apparently prefers to live in Paraguay, are very comfortable in their high administrative positions, but they need a guide to move around.

They need a guide most when they have to explain unpopular measures. The most recent example, which will certainly not be the last, was the announcement of the inconsiderate banishment of Colonel Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas to Pena Hermosa.

After a commando-type operation carried out at midnight and which created uncertainty among his relatives and the public in general, the Armed Forces commander in chief informed the Paraguayan people through the U.S. ambassador that the colonel had been sent to Pena Hermosa.

Once again demonstrating his wonderful gift of ubiquity obtained through God and the United States, Mr. Glassman was in Armed Forces headquarters on 27 January, where President Andres Rodriguez happened to be working precisely on that day just by chance. Glassman told the media that he was there only to accompany Major General Richard Timmons, commanding general of the U.S. Southern Command. However, the ambassador said, since they were already there the president informed him that the colonel was sent in an airplane to the island of Pena Hermosa, an island gifted by nature and stained by man. Thus, Gonzalez Rojas' destination was made public.

It is not the first time that the only man in Paraguay capable of stopping the tanks with a communique has played the role of national spokesman, making us recall a habit that Stroessner loved and that stimulated his morbidity. When uncertainty used to prevail, increasing the population's anxiety, Stroessner would make the news come from abroad, like in the case of the 50 cycles [during the joint construction with Brazil of the Itaipu hydroelectric dam, it was said the output would be 60 cycles—fit only for Brazil but not for Paraguay, which uses 50 cycles], which engineer Debernardi or opposition leader Domingo Laino—who challenged him in those days when it was a taboo subject—can explain.

Stroessner would allow such uncertainty to prevail out of pure perversion. The current case lacks both, grace and malice. No wonder Blas N. [Riquelme, Colorado Party president] is so annoyed. Of course, he does this to appear as if he is helping [Colorado Party presidential hopeful] Luis Maria Argana and harming others, which is a matter of conflict and positions.

Only in an illustrative manner, we must recall that the confirmation of the 9 May elections was made in the presence of Glassman and that the first cholera cases were announced to us by Argentine President Carlos Menem, causing the anger of his tennis rival [President Rodriguez].

What a lack of personality!

PLRA Candidate Announces Possible Alliances

PY0202204193 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 2 Feb 93 p 9

[Text] "The political rally at Coronel Oviedo's Plaza de los Heroes was a meeting without precedent in our country's political history. It represented a show of electoral force by the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA). We say this without arrogance. We wanted to show that the Paraguayan people have recognized and trust the PLRA and the PLRA leadership," Domingo Laino said when evaluating the official launching of his presidential race.

Regarding the presence of representatives from various independent political movements, the United Labor Federation (CUT), and independent candidate Leandro Prieto Yegros, Laino said their presence underlines the importance of the PLRA government program of "national unity." Laino added that this support means there is confidence the PLRA is a government option as of 15 August.

"The call for national unity was made by all those who spoke at the rally. I directed my call to Luis Alfonso Resck, presidential candidate for the Christian Democratic Party, and Ricardo Canese, Abraham Zapag, and

Leandro Prieto Yegros as candidates of independent movements. The presence of Alan Flores is our way of saying that we want a national unity government through a PLRA victory, because this party has a commitment to the population's poorest groups," Laino said.

The PLRA leader said that for the time being they do not have a concrete dialogue about an alliance with the representatives of independent political movements who attended the rally. "But the PLRA is an open party; we are not egoists. We want all good Paraguayans to share this big responsibility that all democrats have as of this year," Laino said.

Laino said the PLRA will always want an alliance with those groups committed to ethical and moral values "that exist in abundance in our political and social arena."

The candidate said the difficulty in answering the question about the possible unity of independent political sectors around PLRA proposals and candidacies is due to the uncertain political climate prevailing in the country, which prevents us from being sure about alliances. Laino stressed, however, the true political will to establish alliances and did not dismiss the possibility of reaching an agreement on unity in February.

Rodriguez Concerned About Colorado Party Crisis

PY0202204493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 2 Feb 93 p 6

[Text] After a meeting with the president, Interior Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche said yesterday that President Andres Rodriguez is concerned about the current situation affecting the Colorado Party [ANR—National Republican Association]. Estigarribia said: "We hope a solution will be found. We believe that through political negotiations the ANR will be able to find a solution and thus appoint a candidate for the 9 May elections."

The current crisis affecting the Colorado Party was discussed yesterday at Government House by President Andres Rodriguez, Interior Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche, and Vice Minister Juan Carlos Galaverna. Estigarribia said: "We hope a solution will be found. We believe that through political negotiations the Colorado Party will be able to find a solution and thus appoint a candidate for the 9 May elections." He added: "The president believes that a negotiated solution will be achieved through a consensus among the parties involved. No matter what, a consensus must be achieved to solve this crisis."

Asked how this consensus will be achieved, Estigarribia said: "It is up to the politicians to decide who takes the first step, or if they want to take joint steps, to find a solution."

Answering a question on whether negotiations are under way to this effect, he said: "Talks are being held at all levels. All of them are compelled by the existing concern about the situation we are experiencing. But no solution has been achieved yet."

Asked if the next ANR convention called by the party Executive Board will result in a solution to the crisis, Estigarribia said a solution will be found if the parties involved are willing to do so. He said: "This party convention has been called, and no matter what other political party groups may believe, it is in compliance with the law."

Asked if in his capacity as interior minister he will mediate between the [Juan Carlos] Wasmosy and [Luis Maria] Argana factions, Estigarribia explained that any Colorado Party member has the duty to mediate in this issue because "undoubtedly, as a majority party, the Colorados must be represented in the upcoming elections. Otherwise, a very important part of Paraguayan society will be left out of the elections. This would undermine the legitimacy of the elections because many Paraguayan citizens who are Colorado Party members will be unable to take part in them."

Estigarribia stressed that the president is very concerned about the Colorado Party crisis, "and all of us hope a solution will be found."

In response to a question about the new round of the civic-military dialogue that was resumed a few weeks ago while he was on vacation, Estigarribia said this issue was not discussed with the president. He added: "It seems that the opposition does not wish to talk with the interior minister, but we are willing to fulfill our duty. I believe we are qualified to do so. If they do not want to talk with the interior minister, they will have to choose a better alternative to holding this dialogue."

Vice Interior Minister Galaverna Resigns

PY0202180493 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] We have just received some surprising news from the Interior Ministry Under Secretariat [as heard]. Vice Interior Minister Juan Carlos Galaverna has resigned.

In a report issued by the President's office, through Decree No. 16,314 issued this morning, the Government has appointed Lawyer Ruben Esteban Villalba Cataldi as vice interior minister.

It is not known why Galaverna resigned, but it is expected that he will be appointed to a higher government post.

Peru

Fujimori Reaffirms Respect for Press Freedom

PY0302141193 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 25 Jan 93 p A3

[Excerpts] President Alberto Fujimori revealed last night that he is implementing special actions before the judicial branch in support of the reporters still being held under arrest, unjustly accused of links with terrorism.

He said his government fully respects freedom of the press in Peru. He added that the so-called political "evaluation" of the information published by the media made by the government intelligence services does not represent any type of pressure or threat against freedom of the press.

Fujimori said this during an interview at Government House for the Panorama television program.

Fujimori revealed that "the executive branch is implementing actions before judicial branch officials" on the situation of reporters who have been unjustly accused of terrorism and subversion, like the case of Magno Sosa, the correspondent for LA REPUBLICA in Ayacucho.

Fujimori added: "Fortunately some cases have already been solved, like the case of Jose Ramirez who has been released."

Discussing the worrisome issue of freedom of the press, Fujimori said there was nothing to fear regarding the exercise of freedom of the press and expression in Peru.

Regarding the fear that has been felt beyond our borders as the result of the unjust arrests and arbitrary decisions against reporters such as the case of (Ricardo Uceda), director of the magazine SI, and (Enrique Zileri), director of CARETAS magazine, Fujimori said that his government will not repress the freedom of the press. [passage omitted]

Fujimori was asked to elaborate on what government officials mean when they say they have "to assess" the news reported by the press.

To this effect, he said that it is his administration's duty to assess and check whether a piece of news that affects Peru's international image comes from a reliable source so that it can "make corrections if necessary."

Fujimori underscored the fact that this assessment does not mean that the government wishes to exert any type of pressure or that it seeks to threaten or curtail freedom of the press in Peru.

He then complained about some news reports, which he labeled as "pure fabrication."

During the interview, Fujimori presented a detailed analysis of the latest issue of CARETAS magazine, the cover of which shows a photograph of Major Caceres, one of the detainees following the abortive coup attempt last 13 November.

He stated that intelligence service experts have found out that the alleged photograph of Maj. Caceres' body bearing torture marks was neither taken on 14 November, as the caption of the photograph purports, nor in Maj. Caceres' bathroom. It was taken in the prison cell at the Bolivar barracks, where he is currently held in custody. [passage omitted]

Announces Transfer of Guzman

PA0302032993 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] In Arequipa, President Alberto Fujimori reaffirmed that Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman will be transferred to a more secure prison near San Lorenzo island. The president said the transfer of Guzman, prisoner no. 1509, will be carried out in total secrecy. He announced that more maximum security prisons will be built to house the sentenced terrorists. Fujimori also spoke about the increase in inflation in January.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] We have already decided on the place where he will be sent. In reality, it is the San Lorenzo island. I will announce....

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] To what naval base will he be sent?

[Fujimori] I will announce it when he has been transferred. It is near San Lorenzo island.

[Reporter] What kind of prison is it?

[Fujimori] It is a maximum security prison. It is impregnable. Speaking of prisons, I want to tell you that security and prison modernization were discussed at the meeting with the justice minister. We are going to build a string of prisons where the sentenced terrorist leaders will be well guarded. The prisons will be maximum security jails, just like the Castro Castro prison, which is now a true maximum security jail, and like Yanamayo in Puno. We have also decided to build prisons in Huaraz, Cajamarca, and Pucalpa. We will improve the jails in Pique, Trujillo, and in some other places.

[Reporter] Inflation in January was 4.8 percent. Several economists have said: Carlos Bolona [former economy minister] left and inflation surged. Would you comment on this?

[Fujimori] Several factors caused inflation to go up a point in January. Basically, the inflation [words indistinct] due to the readjustments in transportation rates. We, however, have to continue to work to reduce inflation. There are still some factors, directly under government control, that need readjusting. For example, public services rates, such as electricity, water, and telephone need readjusting. We have to reduce costs. A rationing process has to be implemented. I hope we can implement

the necessary readjustments, just as we have been doing in the central government. [end recording]

Air Force Praises U.S. Radar Installation

PY0202223293 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 26 Jan 93 pp A10, A11

[Article by Lis Mineo]

[Excerpts] The installation of a U.S. radar unit in Yurimaguas has been welcomed by the Peruvian Air Force [FAP], which has confronted drug traffickers since April 1992 practically blind.

The radar will reduce the costs caused by the use of fighters on patrol operations. However, according to experts, a single radar is insufficient to reverse the unsuccessful antidrug strategy.

The new radar will be able to detect various light airplanes all day long, but it undoubtedly will increase operations at night when the drug traffickers' airplanes increase their flights although they can be detected. However, they will follow their routes very securely because they are sure they will not be intercepted by FAP A-37 Tucano fighters because they still lack the necessary equipment to carry out night operations.

A senior military officer said: "We are no longer blind with the radar, but we continue to be one-handed people because we are unable to pursue the planes."

The antinarcotics operations will not yield immediate spectacular results even with the radar's installation because appropriate equipment is needed to detect, intercept, and seize the drug traffickers' airplanes.

Despite the efforts made in the antidrug struggle, the FAP itself admits its shortcomings. A FAP report states "the need to obtain support to equip the airplanes and to provide the means, including radio equipment, to the airfields in order to intercept the light airplanes that have intensified their operations at night rather than in daylight." [passage omitted]

The United States deems air interdiction a key point in the antidrug strategy because it is aimed at discouraging drug traffickers from using airplanes, thus depriving them of secure, direct, and economical routes, but the interdiction operations obviously require equipment to detect and intercept the planes.

The U.S. Defense Department, therefore, earmarks resources to improve radar detection and provides airborne and mobile ground radars to make drug enforcement more effective.

According to U.S. statistics, the U.S. Government provided military aid totaling $203.5 million to Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador in 1990 and 1991. It is expected, however, that military aid will decline under Clinton's administration because the new U.S. antidrug policy reportedly is aimed at prioritizing domestic demand rather than aid to drug-producing countries.

The FAP expects that it will continue to count on radar in drug enforcement activities because it reduces the huge expenses caused by the fighters that are used in patrol operations. An FAP officer assigned to Upper Huallaga told EXPRESO: "One radar is not enough, but it is better than nothing."

Government Appoints New Transportation Minister

PA0202201193 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The government has appointed Dante Cordoba Blanco as the new transportation, communication, housing, and construction minister to replace Alfredo Ross Antezana. The new minister, who will be sworn in on 3 February before President Alberto Fujimori, ranked as first assemblyman on Pablo Gutierrez' electoral ticket.

Cordoba Blanco is currently the general manager of Perumar, Incorporated, a maritime transportation company, and chairman of the Peruvian Exporters Association. Cordoba is married to Lucy Flores and has three children. Cordoba attended high school at Our Lady of Guadalupe National School and earned a law degree with a specialization in transportation from San Marcos University.

CCD Member Advocates Same U.S. Relations

PY0202204893 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 22 Jan 93 p A7

[Text] International law specialist Francisco Tudela has stated that the policy followed by the Peruvian Government during Republican George Bush's administration must remain basically the same during Democrat Bill Clinton's administration. Peru will not overcome its problems by changing its international policy.

Tudela says development in Peru and other Latin American countries will depend on they way they meet the challenge of joining a free and competitive world economy without protectionism.

Commenting on the inauguration of the 42d U.S. President, Bill Clinton, Tudela said: "The matter of Peruvian development only concerns Peruvians."

He said Peru will be able to consolidate its progress as long as the economic initiative and effort are strengthened within the various integration procedures.

Tudela, who is a member of the Renewal Party and the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] Foreign Relations Commission, said Clinton's administration is planning to concentrate mainly on human rights and democracy issues.

Considering the interventionist trend shown by the U.S. Democrat Party, it is unlikely that any of Peruvian democracy's stages will satisfy the new administration of the only power in the world.

Tudela said it would not be unexpected if, in the near future, the Democratic Party's radical factions suggest that the new U.S. administration propose to the Peruvian Government the need to hold a dialogue with the Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement terrorist organizations.

Tudela says it is clear that Democratic governments have played a more significant interventionist role than Republicans. Proof of this are the two world wars and the Vietnam War. U.S. intervention in those events was decided under Democratic administrations.

Intervention by Republican governments in the domestic affairs of other countries has a realistic objective, such as the end of the cold war and communism, without seeking to redeem the world through the gospel of democracy.

New Foreign Policy Challenge Discussed

PY0302015193 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 28 Jan 93 p 22

[Article by Jorge Morelli Pando]

[Excerpt] The changes taking place in the world are dynamic and diverse. Some changes are undoubtedly productive, but others only revive conflicts that were considered resolved. Some changes are also erratic and senseless, to the point that a commentator has asserted that a "new international disorder" is taking place.

How do the countries on the "periphery," those who have little say in the achievements and mistakes of the great powers, react to this uncertainty? Reality shows that to expect the solidarity of the nations on the "periphery" is mere speculation.

The challenge that our relationship at the hemispheric level and other levels derived from close proximity currently represents is quite different. As for our relationship at the continental level, it is extremely worrisome to see the conformist attitude adopted, with the only and noteworthy exception of Mexico, by Latin America regarding the forms of neo-interventionism being implemented by the hegemonic power, currently confirmed by the Clinton administration.

Under the pretext of economic freedom and democracy, administered in equal and simultaneous doses, the United States imposes a treatment that Latin America accepts without protesting. It is one thing to join the world trends in the economic field and another quite different matter to accept democracy as a doctrine adapted to the Anglo-Saxon style, a doctrine that, like the one designed by Monroe, is already generating corollaries.

The first corollary, applied within the OAS context, subjects and diminishes the nonintervention principle to the extent that it presumptively imposes isolation and other sanctions on those who violate the democratic principle. Recently, the General Assembly pronounced itself in this sense, but fortunately it has yet to rectify itself.

A second corollary, which is still in the making, may weaken Peru's political right to self-determination. Now that Congress is installed and that it is certain the municipal elections will be held on 29 January, Peru has appropriately fulfilled the requirements to uphold any democratic system. Therefore, there is no reason why Mr. Aronson [U.S. assistant secretary of state for Inter-American Affairs], in a message to the Clinton administration, should have suggested that the Peruvian Congress be monitored.

Mr. Aronson has thus ruined the positive attitude he had in the difficult moments Peru experienced and has ended his administration subjecting himself to the pressure exerted by sectors of the U.S. media that surprisingly have gotten tangled in the strings astutely pulled by some Peruvian citizens who have influence in sectors of the international media.

Aware of the risks of these and other foreseeable corollaries, and their possible consequences for our reformed—although incipient—democracy, we also must outline new forms of relationships with our nearest neighbors, especially with those with whom we share a delicate agenda, which our domestic normalization process compels us to, once again, give priority treatment.

This will be possible merely with the much-desired elimination of the traditional taboos affecting our relationship with neighboring countries. [passage omitted]

Shining Path Lawyers Sentenced to Prison

PA0302043993 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The special military court sentenced lawyers Jorge Cartagena and Alfredo Crespo to life in prison. The court also ruled that they must pay a 1 billion soles fine as indemnification for having committed the crime of treason against the fatherland. Cartagena and Crespo, who during the process were found to be top Shining Path leaders, will serve their sentence at the Yanomayo maximum security prison in Puno.

Colombia Explains Rejection of Extradition

PA0302132493 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Report by Augusto Cubillas]

[Text] Colombia will not extradite former President Alan Garcia Perez, who is wanted by Peruvian justice for alleged misappropriation of funds and illegal enrichment. The Colombian Justice Ministry's decision will be

formalized in a document to be sent through diplomatic channels to the Supreme Court in Lima this week.

The official position on the case was explained to the Foreign Ministry Advisory Council during a two-hour meeting at the Narino Palace on 1 February. The commission is headed by former Presidents Carlos Lleras Restrepo and Alfonso Lopez Michelsen and its members include, among others, legislators Jose Dalboud, Fabio Valencia Cossio, and Alberto Santofimio Botero. The commission fully supported the executive's position as it concurs with international law.

The Colombian Government's central argument for refusing Peru's request is based on Colombia's firm tradition of granting political asylum. Additionally, the government found that the Peruvian request did not conform to the Bolivarian treaty on extradition signed in 1991. The document outlines the typical reasons for extradition [words indistinct] political reasons to exchange prisoners eventually, one of the Foreign Ministry Advisory Council members explained. He added that the 1991 Colombian Constitution upgraded asylum to the rank of a human right. The commission members also contended it would be against universally accepted agreements to reverse the asylum already given to Garcia.

Some time ago a group of Peruvian legislators came to Colombia to explain to the Supreme Court of Justice and the foreign minister why Alberto Fujimori's administration was asking for Garcia's extradition. The Peruvian congressmen also presented documents that, according to them, were proof of Garcia's alleged crimes when he was president of Peru.

Shining Path Group Kills Six Ashaninka Indians

PY0202213893 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 24 Jan 93 p A18

[Text] Huancayo—Six Indians were killed and five others injured during an insane Shining Path attack on the Ashaninka Indian community in Mazorankiari, 40 km south of the town of Satipo.

The Shining Path attacked the settlement early on the morning of 21 January. A column of approximately 20 terrorists carrying short- and long-range rifles unexpectedly attacked the Indians, killing six of them.

Having overcome the surprise, the Indians heroically defended themselves although they only had rudimentary weapons such as lances, arrows, and poisoned darts.

According to reports, the fight lasted little more than two hours. The decisive action of the community members forced the terrorists to flee. The Shining Path delinquents dispersed when they realized that defense patrol members from nearby communities were coming to help the Indians.

An Ashaninka delegation later went to Huancayo calling for central government officials' help because many members of their community had been injured and needed medical assistance.

They also asked the local political military chief to supply them with firearms to equip their defense patrols. "The terrorists [terrucos] do not want us to create defense patrols. This is why they attack and kill us," a member of the Ashaninka delegation reported. Combined Army and National Police forces have left for the affected region to capture those responsible for this criminal attack. So far, no reports on the operations being conducted by the combined forces has been received.

Daily Evaluates Future Relations With U.S.

PY0202205893 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 22 Jan 93 p A7

[Text] The U.S. policy toward Latin America will not suffer major changes under the administration of Bill Clinton. On the contrary, the policy will continue under three basic principles: the strengthening of democracy, the defense of human rights, and the promotion of free trade in the region.

According to various international analysts, the U.S. Government has reevaluated over the last few years the role of Latin American countries because it now understands that by strengthening economic and commercial links with the region it will be able to overcome the serious problems affecting the United States.

Eduardo Ferrero Costa, president of the Peruvian Center for Internacional Studies, Cepei, has said that one of the priorities of U.S. foreign policy advocated by former President George Bush toward Latin America was the promotion of democracy and the defense of human rights.

Ferrero Costa added that this trend will certainly be maintained by the Clinton Administration, which will even increase the trend following the tradition of the Democratic Party.

Although various opinions have been expressed by specialists and Peruvian businessmen expressing concern on the direction the U.S. foreign economic policy will take, Ferrero Costa believes that U.S. relations with Latin America, and specially with Peru, may improve in the field of commercial promotion.

One important task will be to promote greater exports to the United States, with the possibility that Peru may benefit from the Andean commercial preference law promulgated by George Bush in 1991 which is currently enjoyed by Colombia, and Bolivia.

The possibilities of a favorable U.S. commercial opening toward the countries of the region was seen with the signing of the free trade agreement among the United

States, Canada, and Mexico. This may be the first step for the United States to expand this agreement to other countries.

Comments made by Bill Clinton during the electoral campaign clearly show his intention to reaffirm the defense of human rights and to consolidate democracy in the region.

During the electoral campaign Clinton said: "I believe we should make it clear that we are in favor of democracy, that we respect human rights, and that we will do what is needed to support them."

Assessment of Clinton Domestic, Foreign Problems

PY0202213193 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 24 Jan 93 Sunday Supplement p 3

[Article by Juan Paredes Castro]

[Text] With the same youthful and optimistic look Theodore Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy had when they became President of the United States, Democrat Bill Clinton took the oath of office on 20 January, on another cold morning in Washington in which the usual promises of life, freedom, and happiness with their warmth inspired the beginning of another difficult four years of government in a country that demands internal changes, in a world that no longer is the postwar world, and in a scenario no longer appropriate to the old-style U.S. leadership.

Clinton's coming to power implies, in the first place, facing urgent crucial problems such as the economic and social depression in the domestic field and the conflict in the Persian Gulf in the international field.

Therefore, two surprising contradictions haunt the change in the White House. U.S. citizens, as they do every four years, wonder what new role the United States will play in the world.

The first contradiction shows how the conflict in the Persian Gulf, which did not allow the reelection of George Bush (who got most of the credit for the victory), became the first difficult and complex task for Bill Clinton, who did everything possible to reach the presidency with other priorities in mind, which did not precisely include war.

The second contradiction reveals a sudden reorganization of Clinton's government program. Clinton will no longer be able to easily subordinate his foreign policy to progress and achievement in the U.S. economic field like he had initially planned. According to the new circumstances, he will have to fight the battle he is facing on those two fronts at the same time, with all the imaginable difficulties that administering and controlling the outcome may entail.

In the midst of all this surfaces an embarrassing irony, which to some extent comforts Bush, as if destiny were getting its own back, leaving latent the heritage of his exaggerated obsession with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussayn and Clinton worried that he suddenly may find himself on the same tracks as the Republican foreign policy he seriously wanted to detour and that, who knows, he may only be able to halt somewhat, in view of the new commitments he has just undertaken in light of developments in the Persian Gulf.

The truth is that Democrat Clinton has just done what all Republican president have usually done: convince himself that the United States has to play a decisive leading role in maintaining world peace and has to respond militarily to any serious threat to its interests in any part of the world.

Two years ago the Persian Gulf war revealed U.S. military hegemony as a phenomenon worthy of being assessed within the context of a world in need of a new order, and a new type of international administration where the United Nations, through its Security Council, plays an unprecedented regulating and moderating role.

What is still not clear within this context is to what degree the Security Council is capable, not only of dictating resolutions for multinational armed interventions against flagrant violations of international law like the ones by Iraq, but also of rationally and fairly controlling the entire process of such intervention that now, like two years ago, leaves no doubt about a certain U.S. preeminence in the military intervention in the Persian Gulf.

Clinton is aware that he cannot just cast aside the privileged U.S. military position. Therefore, his decision will be to respect and use it, but within the framework of a world that has pulled out of the cold war between the East and West and entered a period in which it must define its way of life and coexistence in light of new interests and new confrontations.

In the foreign policy field, Clinton will not be able to suddenly get off the Republican train, which has been on the go since Reagan's first days in power. In the domestic field, to change, he will try to give his government a new pace and a new style that will be in keeping with the promises made during his long electoral battle, during which he stripped Bush of the support he enjoyed until more than a year ago, when it was certain he would be reelected.

Now we have Bill Clinton in the White House, coping with the good and bad aspects of the Republican administration and with the dilemma of how to pull the United States out of its economic crisis without getting involved in more dangerous problems outside his country.

Venezuela

Coupist Riot Controlled After 12 Hours

PA0302165793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1544 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Caracas, 3 Feb (EFE)—A group of civilians indicted for the two attempted coups staged in 1992 created a tense situation for 12 hours in the Santa Ana de Tachira penitentiary, 700 km southwest of Caracas, after staging a riot and kidnapping the penitentiary commander.

According to judicial sources in Caracas, a total of 32 indicted persons had been transferred last week from the San Carlos jail in Caracas to the Santa Ana [de Tachira] penitentiary.

A spokesman from a Tachira medium told EFE that early on 2 February the civilian group apprehended several military police who were guarding the wing where military prisoners are detained.

The prisoners demanded the presence of Lieutenant Colonel Jose Nunez, penitentiary commander, who was kidnapped when he appeared before the prisoners to hear their demands.

According to the spokesman, the prisoners demanded better treatment for their relatives during visits and charged that they are being kept in crowded conditions while the penitentiary does not meet the minimum hygienic and security measures.

The Tachira military authorities declared the penitentiary center to be in a state of emergency. General Humberto Betancourt, Tachira chief commander, together with Gen. Felix Loreto, National Guard chief in the region, have agreed to talk with the rioters.

After 12 hours of tension, the mutiny was controlled by military authorities who promised to study the demands of the arrested persons. The aforementioned source told EFE that the mutineers had demanded respect for their human rights given their status as political prisoners.

The detained civilians are accused of supporting the military members who participated in the 4 February and 27 November 1992 coup attempts.

Guatemalan Minister on Peace Talks in Venezuela

PA0202194593 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Guatemalan Foreign Minister Gonzalo Menendez Park did not rule out the possibility of holding peace negotiations with the Guatemalan guerrillas in Venezuela.

Following a meeting with the Venezuelan chief of state, Menendez Park said Venezuela has repeatedly offered the use of its territory for peace talks. He noted that although the negotiations are being held in Mexico, he did eliminate the possibility of holding the next meeting in Venezuela.

[Begin Menendez Park recording] The president was informed about this. He showed a great deal of interest in the status of the peace talks. He has been following them very closely and expressed his political support for the efforts the Guatemalan Government is making. We hope President Serrano's offer to achieve peace in 90 days will become a reality. All Guatemalans want peace. The guerrilla struggle is fruitless, senseless, and has no support among the Guatemalan people who want peace. [end recording]

The minister concluded by noting that he is very interested in reaching a free trade agreement with the Group of Three members and the Central American countries, nations that will meet in our country from 10 to 12 February.

Supreme Court Finds No Grounds To Try Perez

PA0302021393 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The plenum of the Supreme Court of Justice has ruled there are insufficient grounds to try President Carlos Andres Perez. The magistrates of the republic's highest court ruled the accusation is inadmissible and closed the hearing on the merits of this lawsuit against the head of state. Johnny Ficarella filed this report:

[Begin recording] [Ficarella] Before a plenary session on 2 February Gonzalo Rodriguez, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, presented the lawsuit against President Perez filed by two Radical Cause Party deputies. The magistrates ruled the accusation is inadmissible, arguing there are insufficient grounds to try the president of the republic.

The Radical Cause Party accusation stemmed from the granting of 190 million bolivares to the Venezuelan Workers Bank to cover its deficit. It also involves 250 million bolivares from a secret Foreign Relations Ministry fund.

The court president said a document written by Attorney General Ramon Escovar Salom, urging the Supreme Court of Justice to abstain from ruling on this case, was rejected and a majority of 12 magistrates decided to proceed.

[Rodriguez] The file was accompanied by simple photocopies, the origin of which is unknown. They are absolutely inadmissible as evidence. No citizen—and much less us, magistrates of the court who are also subject to legal action—should grant procedural value to documents of this sort. People involved in a trial—in any kind of trial—must know the procedural norms that regulate them. If they truly want their actions to

progress, they must do the minimum amount of work to gather the required evidence and attach it to the file in correct procedural form.

[Ficarella] The plaintiff, however, could present new evidence and the Supreme Court of Justice may have to start a new hearing on the merits of the lawsuit. [end recording]

Guyana

Election Probe Postponed for Lack of Witnesses

FL0202232293 Bridgetown CANA in English 1950 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 2, CANA—A one-man commission of inquiry into disturbances during last October's Guyana general elections, adjourned Tuesday until Thursday because there were no witnesses.

Former Guyana Judge B.O. Adams adjourned the second day of public hearings and attributed the lack of witnesses to the late notices which appeared in the media less than a week ago. Frominent lawyers appearing for the ruling People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/Civic) alliance, the opposition People's National Congress (PNC) and the Working People's Alliance (WPA) supported the adjournment. Counsel to the commission, Arif Bulkan, acknowledged the late public notices could be the major reason for the lack of witnesses.

"There have been very few witnesses," he said. "We have no one for today." Bulkan said he was co-operating with the police to attract more witnesses, saying the hearings should be well underway by Thursday. Senior counsel Rex McKay, representing the PNC, which was defeated at the polls, also acknowledged the commission may have some difficulties in collecting evidence from witnesses.

"We are interested in getting the evidence rolling," he said. The PNC has a battery of nine lawyers, including former speaker of the National Assembly Sase Narain and parliamentarian Clarissa Rhiel, a former magistrate. Several former government ministers, including Deputy Prime Ministers Winston Murray and Robert Corbin, and Senior Minister Dr. Kenneth King, attended Tuesday's one-hour sitting.

The Adams Commission is probing violence and electoral malpractices around the October 5 general elections. He is to especially probe the storming of the elections commission office, looting of businesses which followed, and claims by thousands of disenfranchisement. The commission is to hold public hearings in the three counties of Berbice, Demerara, and Essequibo. The sole commissioner was appointed by President Cheddi Jagan.

Trade Minister Endorses Foreign Investment

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[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 2, CANA—Guyana's Trade, Tourism, and Industry Minister Michael Shree Chand says his government is pursuing social and economic development objectives that are consistent wth free enterprise and market-oriented policies.

Shree Chand, speaking at a seminar sponsored by the Jamaica-based regional conglomerate, Grace Kennedy and Co., said the People's Progressive Party/Civic administration is also committed to a macro-economic structural adjustment programme. The programme, endorsed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, aims to improve incentives for private sector development, reduce the public sector deficit, and implement a "realistic and viable" public sector investment programme, the minister said. He said Guyana's development thrust and investment climate are being "nurtured on a policy of export-led growth and import replacement" linked to the exploration of natural resources and the development of human resources.

"In Guyana, opportunities for a range of collaboration are available and accessible. The government recognises the important and pivotal contribution which foreign capital can make in this connection and in general, to the rapid development of the country," Shree Chand said. The minister said foreign investment in mining, agriculture, manufacturing, forestry, tourism and other sectors of the economy are welcome. He said: "In terms of ownership of investment, it is to be noted that there is no area of economic activity from which foreign, or domestic investment (is limited), or to which the public sector has an exclusive right."

Saying the government is committed to encouraging Caribbean Community (Caricom) investment here, Shree Chand said Grace Kennedy will constitute a "significant presence" here among other regional conglomerates investing in Guyana. Executive director of the Guyana Manufacturing and Industrial Development Agency (Guymida), Clem Duncan, said his one-stop investment agency is "well aware" of the reputation of Grace Kennedy.

"We are hopeful that as a result of this dialogue this morning we will be able to encourage you to spread our wings a bit deeper into Guyana and in effect make Grace Kennedy a household name in Guyana," Duncan said.

The Jamaican company is currently importing a wide range of its canned food products under the Grace brand. It also exports local agricultural produce, including fish and rice. The company, the regional agents for Western Union money transfers, also operates a remittance service here.